Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-238
Monday
12 December 1994

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-238 *12 December 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli, Syrian Officers To Resume Talks *[HA'ARETZ 9 Dec]* 1
U.S. Said To Prepare Initiative for Lebanon Track *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 1
'Arafat, Rabin, Peres Decide on 2 Tracks in Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
No Breakthrough in Meeting on Elections *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Israeli, Jordanian Embassy Openings Reported *[Amman TV]* 2
Further on Embassy Openings *[Amman Radio]* 3
Israel's Bentzur To Hold Talks With Kuwaitis *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Israel Responsible for Weapons Sales *[Jericho VOP]* 3
'Arafat Gives Address at Nobel Prize Ceremony *[Jericho VOP]* 5
'Arafat, King Husayn To Meet in Casablanca *[Jericho VOP]* 5
Groups Issue Statement Criticizing 'Arafat *[IRNA]* 5
Radio on 'Arafat's Activities, Helsinki Statements *[Jericho VOP]* 5
PLO Office in Oslo Upgraded to Legation General *[Jericho VOP]* 6
PLO's 'Abbas Views Relations With Jordan *[AL-RA'Y 11 Dec]* 6
'Urayqat Discusses Peace Talks, Jerusalem *[Cairo International]* 7
PA Official Views Relations, Other Issues *[AL-DUSTUR 11 Dec]* 8
Quray': No Seriousness in Oslo Talks *[Jerusalem International]* 9
Finance Minister: Currency Not Expected for 2 Years *[AL-ASWAQ 11 Dec]* 9
Health Departments Assume Power *[Jericho VOP]* 10
Popular Front To Set Up Party in Territories *[Jerusalem Radio]* 10
Shaykh Hamami Interviewed on Hamas *[DAVAR 9 Dec]* 10
Al-Zahhar Faults Workings of Conciliation Committee *[Jerusalem Radio]* 13
Hamas: Movement Ready for Town Hall Elections *[AFP]* 13
Islamic Jihad Leader Criticizes 'Arafat *[Jerusalem TV]* 13
Al-Shami: Peace With Jews, Not With Israel *[Jerusalem TV]* 13
Daily: Rabin To Circumvent Provisions of DOP *[AL-AQSA 30 Nov]* 14
Group, 'Israeli Extreme Left Wing' Protest Closure *[Jerusalem Radio]* 14
Egypt Refuses Entry to Deportees From Libya *[Jericho VOP]* 15
Norway To Donate to PA; Sweden To Send Mediator *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Agreement Signed With Norway *[Jericho VOP]* 15
Paper on Christopher Message During Visit *[AL-NAHAR 8 Dec]* 16

ARAB [illegible]A

Alg[illegible]

'Secret' Report Reveals Election Strategy *[London AL-HAYAH 9 Dec]* 17
'Acceptable Security Conditions' Expected Soon *[London AL-HAYAH 9 Dec]* 18
UGTA Head Supports Institution of Presidency *[Algiers TV]* 18
'Fraternity' Denounces Regime, Opposition *[London AL-HAYAH 8 Dec]* 18
MCB Leader: Boycott To Go On Until Demands Met *[Algiers Radio]* 19
Security Services Report Arrests, Operations 19
Two Armed Groups Targeted *[Algiers Radio]* 19
Six 'Terrorists' Killed; Group Disbanded *[Algiers Radio]* 19
'Terrorist' Killed; Hostages Freed *[Algiers TV]* 20

Egypt

Mubarak Views Domestic, Foreign Issues *[MENA]* 20
Mubarak, Delegation Leave for Casablanca Summit *[MENA]* 23
Summit Urged To Address West's 'Double Standards' *[MENA]* 23
Musa Marks World Human Rights Day *[Cairo Radio]* 23
AL-AKHBAR Laments UN Weakness in Bosnia *[MENA]* 23
Reportage on Yemeni President Salih's Visit 23
Arrives in Cairo *[MENA]* 23
Meets With Mubarak *[MENA]* 23
Concludes Official Talks *[Cairo Radio]* 24
Leaves Cairo for Casablanca *[MENA]* 24
Information Minister on Mubarak, Salih Meeting *[MENA]* 24

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses 'Masses' in Suq al-Jum'ah *[Tripoli TV]* 24
Tripoli Seeks Iranian Assistance in Agriculture *[IRNA]* 25
Iranian Labor Minister Continues Talks in Tripoli *[IRNA]* 25
JANA on Dangers of Israel's 1st Satellite *[Tripoli TV]* 26
JANA Editor Comments on 'Arafat's Peace Prize *[Tripoli Radio]* 26
Report Says U.S. on 'Campaign' Against Egypt *[JANA]* 26
Reportage on Cuban Foreign Minister's Visit 26
Gonzalez Meets al-Muntasir *[Tripoli TV]* 26
Delivers Castro Message *[Tripoli TV]* 27
Leaves Tripoli *[JANA]* 27

Morocco

King Hassan Receives Saudi Foreign Minister *[Rabat Radio]* 27
'Militants' Consider Unified Opposition Party *[MAP]* 27

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Ministry Denies Arab Mediation on Iraq Issue *[KUNA]* 28
Information Minister: Confidence in Iraq Lacking *[Kuwait Radio]* 28
Foreign Minister Receives Invitation to Moscow *[KUNA]* 28
Delay in Signing GCC Agreement Explained *[Kuwait TV]* 28
Decree Issued on Dissolution of Municipal Council *[Kuwait Radio]* 28

Saudi Arabia

Finance Minister Lauds Outcome of GCC Session *[SPA]* 29

Yemen

Salih, King Fahd To Solve Problems Through Dialogue *[Sanaa Radio]* 29

IRAQ

Russian Envoy Views Policy, National Security *[ALIF BA' 7 Dec]* 30
Tariq 'Aziz Returns From Moscow Visit *[Baghdad Radio]* 30
RCC Meets, Discusses 'Aziz's Moscow Visit *[Baghdad Radio]* 31
Joint Committee With Sudan Concludes Meetings *[Baghdad Radio]* 31
Paper: U.S. Policy Threatens Self-Interest *[AL-THAWRAH 28 Nov]* 31
B'ath Party Official in al-Basrah Said Killed *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 31
Prayer Leaders Said Killed for Voicing Opposition *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 32
Opposition Groups Warned of Possible Saddam 'Plants' *[London AL-HAYAH 9 Dec]* 32
Opposition Calls For Concerted Push Against Saddam *[London AL-HAYAH 7 Dec]* 32

Official on Oil Production After Blockade Lifted *[MENA]* 33
'Bogus Firms' Siphoning Investment From Exchange *[AL-QADISIYAH 27 Nov]* 33

ISRAEL

Rabin, Peres on Peace, 'Terror,' Palestinians *[YED'OT AHARONOT 9 Dec]* 34
Rabin on 'Arafat, Peace Talks, DPRK Issue *[Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN 11 Dec]* 35
Rabin, Peres Receive Nobel Peace Prize 35
Rabin Gives Address *[GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE]* 35
Peres Gives Speech *[GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE]* 38
Likud Criticizes Rabin, Peres *[Jerusalem New Channel 2 TV]* 41
Protests Against Award Held *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Rabin, Peres Welcome al-Shar' Statement on Contacts *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Sarid Terms Christopher Visit 'Very Significant' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Map Drawn Up of Final Status Security Concerns *[THE JERUSALEM POST 5 Dec]* 42

JORDAN

New Israeli Embassy Officially Opens in Amman 43
Protest March Banned *[MENA]* 43
Parties Regret Ban *[JORDAN TIMES 11 Dec]* 43
Parties Condemn Opening *[AL-MAJD 12 Dec]* 43
IAF Assails Opening *[AL-DUSTUR 12 Dec]* 44
Opposition Stages Sit-In *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 45
Further on Protest *[Amman TV]* 45
Protests Continue *[AFP]* 45
Israeli Officials Comment *[PETRA-JNA]* 45
Hasan Stresses Safeguarding Palestinian Ties *[Amman TV]* 46
Officials Meet With Palestinians on Labor Issues *[Amman Radio]* 46

LEBANON

Al-Hirawi Returns From Syria; Talks Noted *[Beirut Radio]* 47
Al-Shar' Notes Lack of Progress in Talks *[Damascus TV]* 47
Leaves Beirut for Morocco *[VOL]* 47
Al-Hariri Leaves for Casablanca ICO Conference *[VOL]* 47
Opening of Israeli Embassy in Amman Viewed *[Beirut Radio]* 47
'Civilian Targets' in South Coming Under Attack *[Beirut Radio]* 47
Hizballah Official Vows To Wipe Out SLA *[VOL]* 47
Hizballah Claims Attack on Israeli Patrol *[AFP]* 48
Israeli Shelling, Marj 'Uyun Incident Reported *[RFL]* 48
Islamic Resistance Claims Attack on Tallusah Post *[RFL]* 48

SYRIA

Secret Contacts 'Do Not,' 'Will Not' Take Place *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 49
UN General Assembly Resolution on Golan Reported *[Damascus Radio]* 49
Al-Shar' on U.S.-Sponsored 'Exchange of Views' *[VOL]* 49
TISHRIN Criticizes Peres' Oslo Speech *[Damascus Radio]* 50
Al-Asad Receives Lebanese President al-Hirawi *[Damascus TV]* 50
Al-Shar' Beirut Statements on Peace Reported *[Damascus Radio]* 50

SOUTH ASIA

Bangladesh

Home of Judge Bombed After Boycott Ruling *[Dhaka Radio]* 52
Political Crisis 'Deepens'; Martial Law 'Unlikely' *[AFP]* 52
Prime Minister Leaves for ICO Summit *[Dhaka Radio]* 52

India

Rao Reportedly Urged To Have Heart Bypass Surgery *[AFP]* 53
State Election Results In; New Governments Formed 53
'Stage' Set for Changes *[Delhi Radio]* 53
Opposition To Lead 3 States *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim Ministers Sworn In *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Congress-I Rules Out Snap Poll *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Faith in Rao Leadership Reaffirmed *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Tasks Outlined for New Leaders *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Voters Seen as 'Decisive' *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Businessmen on 'Rout' of Congress-I *[AFP]* 57
Analysis: Defeats 'Breathtaking' *[Delhi Radio]* 57

Iran

Yazdi Sermon on Choosing the Source of Emulation *[Tehran Radio]* 58
Yazdi Says Khomeyni's Mantle Given to Khamene'i *[Tehran Radio]* 62
Ayatollah Amini Delivers Qom Friday Prayers Sermons *[Tehran Radio]* 62
Moroccan King Sends Message to President *[IRNA]* 63
ETTELA'AT Reports of Railway Link to Iraq *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Commentary Recommends Structured Approach to GATT *[Tehran TV]* 63
Nateq-Nuri Summarizes Central Eurasian Visit *[IRNA]* 64
Habibi Meets With Omani Minister al-Ghazali 64
Relations Described As 'Deep' *[Tehran TV]* 64
Transport Agreement Signed *[Tehran TV]* 64
Journalists Allowed To Visit Prison *[Tehran Radio]* 64
U.S. Admits Defeat in Attempts To Isolate Iran *[Tehran TV]* 65
Implications of U.S.-Kuwait Maneuvers Viewed *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 5 Dec]* 65
Khamene'i Discusses 'Cultural Revolution' *[Tehran TV]* 65
Commentary on British Envoy's 'Audacious' Remarks *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 3 Dec]* 66
Commentary on Anniversary of Palestinian Intifadah *[Tehran Radio]* 66

Pakistan

Editorial Examines India's 'Electoral Debacle' *[THE NATION 12 Dec]* 67
Legislators Work for Solution to Sindh Crisis *[THE MUSLIM 12 Dec]* 68

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli, Syrian Officers To Resume Talks

TA0912210794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Dec 94 pp A1, A2

[Report by Washington-based correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The [Israeli and Syrian] officers talks will resume in Washington in the next few weeks, alongside the ambassadors track, according to sources in Washington who commented yesterday on Secretary of State Warren Christopher's talks in Damascus and Jerusalem. The sources say that Syria has agreed to add a "security component" to the secret ambassadors track that has been convening periodically in Washington since the peace talks were suspended last February.

In the wake of President Bill Clinton's visit to the region approximately one month ago, it was agreed that Israel and Syria would send senior officers to Washington to launch discussions on security arrangements, but Syria consequently retracted and suspended the negotiations.

The format for the security discussions has still not been determined. It has yet to be decided whether the senior officers sent by the two sides to Washington will join the ambassadors track, as proposed by Israel, or serve as advisers outside the negotiations framework, as Syria prefers. Israel prefers that its military representative meet directly with his Syrian counterpart, whether along with the ambassadors or separately. The Syrians, on the other hand, prefer a "crisscross" arrangement whereby the military representative of each side will meet with the other side's civilian representative.

The Americans attribute great importance to Syria's agreement to launch practical discussions on security arrangements on the Golan Heights without insisting that Israel undertake to implement a comprehensive withdrawal according to the accelerated timetable demanded by President al-Asad. In the talks that were suspended early this year, the sides reached an understanding regarding the principle of "balanced" (rather than "symmetrical") security arrangements on both sides of the new borderline, which will be determined at a later stage of the negotiations. This removed Syria's precondition regarding a broad demilitarization in the Galilee.

The talks between Ambassadors Rabinovich and al-Mu'allim in Washington, held under the auspices of Dennis Ross, have so far centered on procedural issues and attempts to improve the atmosphere between Damascus and Jerusalem. Christopher has undertaken to convince President al-Asad to make progress on procedural matters at least. Efforts will now be centered on achieving an understanding regarding the principle that all the area to be evacuated by Israel on the Golan Heights will be demilitarized and handed over for international supervision. Such an understanding will necessitate the first practical discussion on the missions and scope of the Golan Heights peacekeeping force.

Sources in Washington reported yesterday that, in the next few days, Jewish organizations and other elements will launch a campaign to enlist support for U.S. involvement in the peace arrangement between Israel and Syria. This action is aimed at weakening the opposition being raised by the "coalition against U.S. forces on the Golan Heights" against sending U.S. troops as part of the peacekeeping force on the Golan Heights.

The Israeli Embassy and Jewish organizations will emphasize the fact that Israel does not want U.S. soldiers to risk their lives for Israel and that their mission will not involve combat duty but rather technical supervision of an agreement between two countries, after they open their borders and establish diplomatic relations. It will also be emphasized that Israel and the United States will insist that the arrangement include an end to Syrian support for Hizballah and those Palestinian organizations that oppose the agreement between Israel and the PLO.

The coalition against sending troops to the Golan Heights announced yesterday that "Uncle Sam" will shortly appear on its behalf across the United States in military garb and with his mouth clamped shut with adhesive tape to symbolize the efforts to prevent a public debate in Congress and among the public. [passage omitted]

U.S. Said To Prepare Initiative for Lebanon Track

TA1212081794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Dec 94

[Report by Sefi Handler]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syria's willingness to have officers participate in the peace talks with Israel may bring about a similar development on the Israeli-Lebanese track, according to a new U.S. initiative. Information that has reached Jerusalem says that the U.S. Administration, which is concerned about the escalation in south Lebanon, plans to bring about the resumption of the Israeli-Lebanese peace talks along the lines of the Israeli-Syrian track.

As will be recalled, Syria recently agreed to have military experts from both countries join the talks between Ambassadors Rabinovich and al-Mu'allim to discuss the security arrangements between the two countries. The Americans maintain that such an arrangement can also be implemented in the Israeli-Lebanese talks. They argue that talks between Israeli and Lebanese officers could perhaps contribute toward restoring calm in south Lebanon.

Previous efforts to reach a security understanding between Israel and Lebanon failed because of Syria's

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

veto. Perhaps Syria, the real master in Lebanon, will permit Lebanon to launch a security dialogue with Israel this time around. It must be emphasized that no date has been set for such talks, and so far it is not even clear if this initiative will bear fruit.

'Arafat, Rabin, Peres Decide on 2 Tracks in Talks

TA1112055294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held a midnight meeting last night in Oslo after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize. After the formal prize banquet, the three men held talks on the next stage of the peace agreement, including the redeployment of Israeli troops and Palestinian elections. They gave no news conference after the meeting but issued a joint statement saying both sides were committed to the full implementation of their peace accord in its next stage in order to further this process in the most effective way.

Officials from both sides confirmed the delegations will meet again in Cairo on Wednesday for further talks, and, they added, Peres and 'Arafat will meet in a week's time, followed by talks between Rabin and 'Arafat at a later date.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 11 December carries a similar report, adding that "our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that at the meeting, it was decided to form two tracks in the talks on the implementation of the next stage of the Oslo agreement. The senior level will deal with the strategic issues on the agenda, while the second level will deal with technical matters."]

No Breakthrough in Meeting on Elections

TA1112123494

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 11 December reports that "speaking in Oslo, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that within two weeks, Israel and the Palestinians will reach an agreement on the precise way to conduct the negotiations on the elections in the territories. The prime minister said there are two options on the agenda: either to implement the Declaration of Principles [DOP] along with a security plan for Israel or to hold the elections while making the necessary changes regarding the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment.

"Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said no changes will be made in the DOP unless they are acceptable to both sides. As for the negotiations with Syria, the foreign minister said the military echelon will now be involved in the discussions. Peres noted, however, that the progress made so far is mainly limited to an improvement in the atmosphere at the talks rather than actual achievements on the ground.

"Mr. Peres also reported that an Israeli ambassador to Jordan will be appointed within several days."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 11 December in a report by political correspondent Udi Segal adds that "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will meet with Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat next week at the Erez checkpoint in order to formulate the framework for implementing the interim accord in Judaea and Samaria. Rabin said it is impossible to separate the issue of elections in the territories from the security problems that would follow the IDF's redeployment in Judaea and Samaria as stipulated by the DOP. Last night, Rabin, Peres, and 'Arafat agreed to maintain regular meetings at the highest levels."

In recorded remarks on the talks with the Palestinians made following his meeting with the Norwegian prime minister, Rabin says: "The talks will continue next week, and before the following week begins, we will have to decide what exact method to follow in the negotiations process. I do not think anyone who seeks real progress should boast about his achievements, bemoan his failures, or criticize the other party in the media after every meeting. Talks under the media's spotlight will not lead anywhere. Since we are now in Oslo, I will say that Oslo constitutes an example of how secret talks resolve problems." Segal notes that "in their meeting last night, Rabin promised 'Arafat to ease the closure on the territories and permit another 3,500 Palestinian agricultural workers to enter Israel."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 11 December reports that "the three laureates this morning got down to another session of talks in an attempt to resolve the issue of elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the redeployment of the Israeli army. The latest report we have from the Norwegian capital is that no breakthrough was made, although there are hopes of some progress. Prime Minister Rabin said he hoped the Palestinian elections could be held next year but said increased attacks by Muslim fundamentalists were the main obstacle to such polls. He was speaking this morning after a late-night meeting with PLO Chairman 'Arafat."

Israeli, Jordanian Embassy Openings Reported

JN1112114194 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Embassies of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Israel will be opened today in Amman and Tel Aviv. The opening of embassies marks the commencement of diplomatic relations between the two countries in implementation of the fifth article of the Jordanian-Israeli peace agreement.

At 1100 today, the provisional site of the Israeli Embassy was opened at the Forte Grand Hotel in Amman. Later today, the provisional site of the Jordanian Embassy will be inaugurated at a Tel Aviv hotel.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Further on Embassy Openings

JN1112133294 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] We start the news with Israel's opening of its embassy here in Amman as agreed in the peace treaty signed in October. The Jordanian Government was represented by a delegation from the Foreign Ministry, headed by assistant of the Ministry's secretary general Mr. Ahmad al-Hasanat.

The Israeli Government was represented by a delegation headed by assistant of director general of the Middle East Department at the Israeli Foreign Ministry Mr. (Yora) Biran. Mr. Biran unveiled a plaque reading: "Embassy of Israel" in English, Arabic, and Hebrew, and raised his country's flag on a pole outside the Forte Grand Hotel in the capital's financial district. Mr. Biran made a statement at the opening ceremony, in which he said he hoped the move will further cooperation between both sides.

[Begin Biran recording] I am sure that these two embassies will constitute cornerstones on which we will together build a bridge—a bridge of peace, a bridge of good neighborhood, a bridge of friendship and cooperation. The long border between Israel and Jordan, the al-Yarmuk in the north, the Gulf of Elat and al-'Aqabah in the south, separated us for many years. Today, it unites us and together we will walk to develop further the Jordan Valley, Jordan River Valley, further developing its potential in the fields of agriculture, mineral resources, tourism, and the production of energy. Our two nations are attached to the Middle East, not just in the past and present, but in hoping to have a better future to the nations. I am sure that cooperating will indeed form a new Middle East and a new and better future to our citizens. [end recording]

Also participating in the opening ceremony of Israel's Embassy were representatives from the Embassy of the U.S., Russia, the European Union countries, and Egypt.

Israel's Bentzur To Hold Talks With Kuwaitis

TA1112125094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Talks are to begin today on the possibility of Israel and Kuwait opening low-level diplomatic legations in each other's countries. Official notification of Kuwait's intention reached Jerusalem last week, and today's talks are being conducted on the israeli side by Eytan Bentzur, deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry. He is meeting Kuwaiti representatives at the arms control conference being held in the framework of the multilateral negotiations in Tunis. The intention would be to open what is called an interest office, similar to those established recently by Israel in Morocco and Tunisia.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Israel Responsible for Weapons Sales

JN1012065494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, [head of the National Authority], has criticized the existence of an open market for weapons of all types in the occupied West Bank. 'Arafat accused Israel of being responsible for the absence of security. He added: It is not my business to ban the sale of weapons.

President 'Arafat said that Israel is behind the incidents in the West Bank and is responsible for delaying the Palestinian legislative elections. He also criticized countries that interfere in Palestinian affairs.

His excellency once again called on donor countries to fulfill their pledges so we may expeditiously and calmly improve the state of affairs in the Palestinian territories.

'Arafat Gives Address at Nobel Prize Ceremony

JN1012193594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1631 GMT 10 Dec 94

[Speech by Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Oslo after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. But if the enemy incline toward peace, do thou also incline toward peace, and trust in God [part of Koranic verse]. Your Majesties, Chairman (Sabirstat) of Nobel Prize. Ladies and Gentlemen: [preceeding ten words in English] Since my people entrusted me with the hard task of searching for our lost home, I have been filled with warm faith that those who carried their keys in the diaspora [reference to Palestinian refugees who retain the keys to their homes in Palestine] as they carry their own limbs, and that those who endured their wounds in the homeland and maintained their identity will be rewarded by return and freedom for their sacrifices. I have also been filled with faith that the arduous trek on the long path of pains will end in our home's yard.

As we celebrate together the first sight of the crescent of peace, I, at this podium, stare into the open eyes of the martyrs within my conscience. They ask me about the national soil and about their vacant seats there. I conceal my tears from them and tell them: How true you were; your generous blood has enabled us to see the holy land and to take our first steps in a difficult battle, the battle of peace, the peace of the brave.

As we celebrate together, we invoke the powers of creativity within us to reconstruct a home destroyed by war, a home overlooking our neighbor's, where our children will play with their children and will compete in picking flowers. Now, I have a sense of national and human pride in my Palestinian Arab people's patience

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and sacrifice, through which they have established an uninterrupted link between the homeland, history, and the people, adding to the old legends of the homeland an epic of hope. For them, for the children of those good-natured and tough people, who are made of oaks and dews, of fire and sweat, I present this Nobel Prize, which I will carry to our children, who have a promise of freedom, security, and safety in a homeland not threatened by an invader from outside or an exploiter from inside.

I know, Mr. Chairman, that this highly indicative prize has not been granted to me and to my partners, Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, to crown a mission that we have fulfilled, but to encourage us to complete a path which we have started with larger strides, deeper awareness, and more honest intentions. This is so we can the transfer the option of peace, the peace of the brave, from words on paper to practices on the ground, and so we will be worthy of carrying the message that both our peoples and the world and human conscience have asked us to carry. Like their Arab brethren, the Palestinians, whose cause is the guardian of the gate of the Arab-Israeli peace, are looking forward to a comprehensive, just, and durable peace on the basis of land for peace and compliance with international legitimacy and its resolutions.

Peace, to us, is a value and an interest. Peace is an absolute human value which will help man develop his humanity with freedom that cannot be limited by regional, religious, or national restrictions. It restores to the Arab-Jewish relationship its innocent nature and gives the Arab conscience the opportunity to express—through absolute human terms—its understanding of the European tragedy of the Jews. It also gives the Jewish conscience the opportunity to express the suffering of the Palestinian people which resulted from this historical intersection and to find an echo for this suffering in the pained Jewish soul. The pained people are more capable than others of understanding the suffering of other people.

Peace is an interest because, in an atmosphere of just peace, the Palestinian people will be able to achieve their ambitions for independence and sovereignty, to develop their national and cultural existence through relations of good neighborliness, mutual respect, and cooperation with the Israeli people. Peace will enable the Israeli people to define their Middle East identity and to enjoy economic and cultural openness toward their Arab neighbors, who are eager to develop their region, which was kept by the long war from finding its real position in today's world in an atmosphere of democracy, pluralism, and prosperity.

As war is an adventure, peace is also a challenge and a gamble. If we do not fortify peace to stand against storms and wind, and if we do not support it and strengthen it, the gamble will then be exposed to blackmail, perhaps to fall. Therefore, I call on my partners in peace on this high platform to expedite the peace process, achieve early withdrawal, pave the road for elections, and to move to the second stage in record time, so that peace will grow and become a firm reality.

We have started the peace process based on land for peace, on UN Resolutions 242 and 338, and on the other international resolutions calling for achieving the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. While the peace process has not yet reached its target, the new atmosphere of confidence and the modest achievements of the first and second years of the peace process are promising. Therefore, the parties are urged to abandon their reservations, facilitate measures, and achieve the remaining goals, foremost of which are transferring powers and taking steps toward an Israeli withdrawal in the West Bank and the settlements. This will finally lead to a comprehensive withdrawal and will enable our society to build its infrastructure and utilize its status, heritage, knowledge, and awareness to formulate our new world.

In this context, I call on Russia and the United States, sponsors of the peace process, to accelerate the steps of this process, to take part in its formulation, and to overcome its obstacles. I urge Norway and Egypt, in their capacity as hosts to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, to continue their good initiative, which started from Oslo and reached Washington and Cairo. Oslo, as well as the names of the other states that have been hosting the multilateral talks, will remain shining names linked to the peace of the courageous. I also urge all countries, foremost of which are the donor countries, to make their contributions quickly to enable the Palestinian people to overcome their economic and social problems, to rebuild themselves, and to establish their infrastructure. Peace cannot grow and the peace process cannot be entrenched unless their necessary material conditions are met.

I then urge my partners in peace to view the peace process in a comprehensive and strategic way. Confidence alone cannot make peace, but only recognizing the rights, together with confidence, can make peace. Encroaching on rights generates a sense of injustice, keeps the fire under the ashes, and will push peace to a dangerous point and toward quicksand that may destroy it. We view peace as a strategic option, rather than a tactical option influenced by temporary calculations of loss and profit. The peace process is not only a political one, but also an integrated process in which national awareness and economic, scientific, and technological development play an important role. The interaction of cultural, social, and creative elements also play basic roles in strengthening the peace process.

I view all this as I recall the difficult peace march, in which we have covered only a short distance. We should have courage and move as far as possible to cover the greater distance based on just and comprehensive peace and to absorb the strength of creativity which is contained in the deeper lesson of peace.

As long as we have decided to coexist and live in peace, then we should coexist on a solid basis that can last

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

through all time and that is acceptable to the next generations. In this context, full withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip requires deep discussions about the settlements that cut through geographic and political unity, prevent free movement between the areas of the West Bank and the strip, and create hotbeds of tension that conflict with the spirit of peace, which we want to be free of anything that spoils its purity.

As for Jerusalem, it is the spiritual home of Christians, Muslims, and Jews. To Palestinians, it is the city of cities. The Jewish shrines in the city are our shrines, the same as the Islamic and Christian shrines. So let us make Jerusalem an international symbol of this spiritual harmony, this cultural brightness, and this religious heritage of humanity as a whole.

There is an urgent task that activates the peace mechanism and enables it to overcome the problem that is troubling hearts, the question of prisoners. It is important to release them so smiles can return to their children, their mothers, and their wives. Let us together protect this little baby from winter's winds, and let us provide it with the milk and honey it deserves in the land of milk and honey, on the land of Salim, Ibrahim, Isma'il, and Ishaq—the holy land, the land of peace.

Finally, I again congratulate my partners in peace—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres—for winning the Nobel Peace Prize. I also congratulate the friendly Norwegian people for this warm reception, which is evidence of the genuineness and deep roots of this people.

Your Majesties, ladies and gentlemen [preceding words in English] I emphasize to you that we will discover ourselves through peace more than we did through confrontation and conflict. I am certain that the Israelis will find themselves through peace more than they did in war.

Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, and good will toward men. [Biblical verse]. Thank you.

'Arafat, King Husayn To Meet in Casablanca

JN1112100394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Palestinian National Authority presidency, has stated that President Yasir 'Arafat will meet with Jordan's King Husayn in Casablanca next Tuesday [13 December]. 'Abd-al-Rahim said: We are eager to establish strong bases for the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship. For us, Jordan constitutes an Arab depth ['umq 'arabi] and we cannot do without this depth.

Groups Issue Statement Criticizing 'Arafat

LD0812215594 Tehran IRNA in English 2145 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, Dec. 8, IRNA—Islamic and political groups in occupied Palestine have condemned the current moves by Yasir 'Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

In their statement, a copy of which was received by IRNA here today, they said 'Arafat has committed himself to suppress all leaders of the intifada while the Palestinian people have not yet attained even a fraction of their denied rights. They said the clashes are not between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the autonomous government but between 'Arafat and all Palestinians including the Fatah Movement that he heads. The statement said 'Arafat opened fire on Muslim worshippers at their congregational prayers in a bid to serve his overlords the Zionists.

Leaders of many Muslim political movements have signed the statement, among them the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), the National Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine and the National Liberation Movement of Palestine (Fatah).

Radio on 'Arafat's Activities, Helsinki Statements

JN1212085094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian National Authority, will leave Helsinki for Sweden this morning on a 10-hour visit. 'Arafat will then head for Casablanca to participate in the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] summit tomorrow, Tuesday, and the day after tomorrow. His excellency arrived in Helsinki yesterday from Oslo, where he received the Nobel Peace Prize. In Helsinki, 'Arafat met with Finnish President Ahtisaari and Prime Minister Esko Aho.

Yesterday, Palestinian President 'Arafat accused Israel of obstructing the elections scheduled for last July, in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli accord. He added, however, that the elections have not reached a deadlock. His excellency said at a news conference in Helsinki: We are facing a problem as a result of the delay in implementing the timetable. The Israelis are still delaying the elections and we want the elections very soon.

We will now hold a telephone interview with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat:

[Begin recording] [Announcer] Mr. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, good morning.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Good morning.

[Announcer] Would you review President 'Arafat's activities for today?

[Abu-Rudayanah] President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and his accompanying delegation will leave for Sweden on a 10-hour visit only because the president will attend the ICO summit conference in Morocco tomorrow.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

President Abu-'Ammar will hold a meeting with [Israeli] Foreign Minister Peres at 1200 today. He will also hold another meeting with their majesties the Swedish king and queen. This will be followed by a closed meeting between the Palestinian delegation and Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt and then the president will be accorded an official sendoff. The president will then hold a news conference, after which, he and the accompanying delegation will leave for Morocco to attend the ICO summit conference.

[Announcer] Mr. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah: What are the results of President Yasir 'Arafat's meetings?

[Abu-Rudaynah] Yesterday, a lengthy round of talks was held with the Finnish president in Helsinki. Another meeting was also held with the Finnish prime minister. The meeting was fruitful, successful, and useful. Both sides exchanged viewpoints and agreed to continue and reinforce Palestinian-Finnish relations. An agreement was also reached on many points which will be announced in the near future.

[Announcer] It has been reported that a meeting will be held in Casablanca between President 'Arafat and Jordan's King Husayn?

[Abu-Rudaynah] President Abu-'Ammar is expected to meet with King Husayn and with all kings and presidents participating in the conference. As you know, there is a scheduled visit for President 'Arafat to Jordan...

[Announcer, interrupting] When will this visit take place?

[Abu-Rudaynah] So far, the date of the visit has not been fixed. However, the visit is on the president's agenda and, God willing, it will take place as soon as possible.

[Announcer] President Yasir 'Arafat accused Israel of obstructing the elections. He also said that the talks have not reached a deadlock. What is your comment on this?

[Abu-Rudaynah] First, I would like to say that the round of talks which was held with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, was tough and long. It lasted until dawn. An agreement was reached to hold another meeting on the level of committees in Cairo on Tuesday. As I have said, a meeting will be held between President Abu-'Ammar and Peres in Sweden today. The contacts will continue and both sides have announced their commitment to the peace process. However, as I told you, the talks were tough and Israel is still obstructing the elections. Prolonged discussions will be held in Cairo today and tomorrow to follow up these matters. However, matters have not reached a crisis or an impasse.

[Announcer] Mr. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah: What is the importance of the ICO summit which will be held tomorrow and the day after?

[Abu-Rudaynah] As you know, the conference will address many basic issues and the issue of Palestine will top the agenda. The Arab and Islamic leaders will deal with all hot issues facing their nations.

[Announcer] Mr. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, thank you.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Thank you. [end recording] [Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic reported during its 0700 GMT news summary that Yasir 'Arafat left Helsinki for Sweden "a short while ago."]

PLO Office in Oslo Upgraded to Legation General

JN1012073794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, has stated that His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat has signed an agreement with the Norwegian government to upgrade the PLO representation in Oslo to that of Legation General of Palestine.

Speaking to Voice of Palestine, Abu-Rudaynah said that his Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat visited the members of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee immediately after he arrived in Oslo, then held a news conference where he thanked the Norwegian government for its peace efforts and the Nobel Peace Prize Committee for granting him the prize, which is a prize for all the Palestinian people.

President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser added that at the news conference his excellency explained the obstacles facing the peace process and the need to expedite the international assistance for the Palestinian people.

PLO's 'Abbas Views Relations With Jordan

JN1112154094 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Dec 94 p 35

[Telephone interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, in Tunis, by Hazim Mubayyidin; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Mubayyidin] In your opinion, what are the solutions to the negative developments in the Jordanian- Palestinian relations? How do you view the future of these relations?

['Abbas] Palestinian-Jordanian relations have faced many setbacks, the most important of which was the disengagement announcement [decision on legal and administrative disengagement with the West Bank]. The two sides have managed to contain its negative effects and to reestablish relations on new and clear bases. One of the fruits of this clarity was the agreement reached on the eve of the Madrid conference, in accordance with which Jordan provided the Palestinian side with legal cover to join the conference. Relations were at their best during the corridor negotiations in Washington, when

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the Jordanian side expressed solidarity with the Palestinians to make the Palestinian delegation independent. However, I cannot deny that the level of coordination after this was not as required. Sometimes, there was no coordination at all, something which makes anyone who believes that this coordination is important and very useful feel bitter. Many meetings took place over the past two years to set the bases for future cooperation. However, these meetings lacked seriousness, and therefore, did not lead to the aspired results. If we have to point a finger at who is responsible for what happened, I will say that we are concerned the most about the success of coordination, and consequently, we should assume our responsibilities in this regard.

In several press statements, I have said that raising the Jerusalem issue the way it was raised was inappropriate, and that this issue can be solved through direct understanding without making statements. I was pleased with the recent statement by His Highness Prince Hasan in which he removed the ambiguity around this issue. [passage omitted]

[Mubayyidin] How do you assess the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, which some sides viewed as having negative effects on the Palestinian track?

['Abbas] I had wished that coordination between us and Jordan would take place from the very beginning. When the Palestinian-Israeli agreement was signed, I thought it was possible to have coordination after this, especially since this is in the interest of both sides. However, this did not happen, and Jordan signed its agreement with the Israelis. Jordan is a sovereign state and it has the right to behave, sign, and reach agreements within the limits of its sovereignty. Therefore, there is no objection to what it has done. Despite this, I believe that it is still not too late, and that we can settle differences and reach an agreement on the future in all fields. Undoubtedly, Palestine and Jordan are the only losers from a discord. [passage omitted]

'Urayqat Discusses Peace Talks, Jerusalem

NC1212092794 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 12 Dec 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian National Authority, in Jericho, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo; date not given: from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] you led the Palestinian delegation to the meetings of the Liaison Committee held in Cairo recently. What were the results of these meetings?

['Urayqat] The election delegation held its seventh round in Cairo last week and we will hold the eighth round in Cairo on 14 and 15 December. We conveyed a comprehensive vision of the concept and the nature and composition of the council proposed to be elected. We [words indistinct] with the Israeli delegation after a 40-day break and answers [as heard] but were surprised by the new head of the Israeli delegation, General Zohar, saying these issues remain on the Israeli Government's agenda of needed resolutions. So we agreed to meet again at our eighth round in Cairo this week. I am full of hope that the Israeli delegation will come up with clear and decisive answers, because the ball is in their court and they have the [word indistinct]. They know very well that most of the issues concerning elections have been discussed and [words indistinct] through papers and exchanged proposals.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] But how do you interpret the Israeli delegation chief's answer?

['Urayqat] The delegation's former head resigned. The Israeli Government used to include numerous issues on its agenda. He said the Israeli Government has made no decisions on them yet.

I believe that the postponing and stalling of efforts have nothing to do with the composition or number of members of a council; the main issue concerns Israeli procrastination over redeployment. Sometimes we hear from the Israeli Government of a trial balloon concerning temporary redeployment, that is, leaving the territories for three days and returning, or linking the elections with amending the Palestinian National Charter, and other issues stipulated in the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington.

We say elections cannot be held without completing the first stage of redeployment as stipulated in the Declaration of Principles, the stage when the Israeli army and security forces leave our cities, villages, and camps in the West Bank without return, that is, with a one-way ticket. There should be no return, because the aim of the whole peace process is a gradual ending of the occupation. The Israeli procrastination is currently represented by great reluctance on the issue of redeployment.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] After the Nobel Prize was given to Yasir 'Arafat and Rabin and Rabin's foreign minister, Shim'on Peres, talks were held between the Palestinian and Israeli sides in Oslo. What was the nature of these talks and should we expect real progress in your negotiations with the Israeli side?

['Urayqat] The continuous summit meetings between President Yasir 'Arafat and the Israeli prime minister and foreign minister are positive sometimes; more often they do not produce results.

As regards the Palestinian side, 'Arafat has repeatedly announced its commitment to the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington. Rabin also declares his commitment to the media, in English, but it seems he issues orders in Hebrew to expand the settlements, procrastinate over redeployment, or to propose new (?terms) that have no relevance to the Declaration of Principles.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The time has come for the Israeli Government to face the moment of truth. If Israeli procrastination's aim is to cause problems, such as those caused by the settlement policy and settlers, we have always said that the settlement and peace are two parallels that do not meet. The Israeli Government must choose peace or settlement; it cannot have both.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Urayqat, you met the U.S. secretary of state during his recent regional tour. Did you sense anything new in the U.S. position on the peace process between you and Israel?

['Urayqat] Ever since the Cairo negotiations began we have been calling things by their real name. The U.S. position is totally biased toward Israel with only nominal backing for the peace process. Regarding the Palestinian elections, the U.S. secretary of state did not even make a statement about them. Egypt is now the actual sponsor of the peace operation. Of the two original peace sponsors, Russia is preoccupied with domestic problems. The United States, the other sponsor, is completely biased toward Israel. There was nothing new during Christopher's tour apart from the very serious remark he made before he arrived in Gaza that the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles might be amended. This is a prelude to accepting the Israeli view on this issue. It is very serious. Our position is that the Declaration of Principles is a signed document that is internationally recognized, illustrated by over 182 countries attending the signing ceremony. The peace process is revolving around the focal issue of the elections. The Palestinian and Israeli negotiating documents are lodged with Egypt, the EU countries, the United States, and Russia. All these parties realize that Israel is the procrastinating party. It is time to decide on the issue. There is no room for delay.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Urayqat, let us move to the Jerusalem issue. Can we expect a solution in light of Casablanca's Islamic Conference Organization conference, bearing in mind that Israel has tried more than once to provoke a disagreement between you and Jordan over Jerusalem?

['Urayqat] The basic point here is that Jerusalem must be viewed as occupied territory in line with the remaining Arab territories occupied in 1967. Jerusalem is a city occupied by Israel at that time and is subject to UN Security Council Resolution 242, the preamble of which states that it is inadmissible to occupy the territory of others by force. We are not downgrading the city's religious importance but the basic issue is the inadmissibility of occupying the territory of others by force and the need to implement the land-for-peace principle. This must apply to Jerusalem just as it applies to the other Arab and Palestinian occupied territories. This is the basic point. I believe the Islamic countries meeting in Morocco must adopt a clear resolution and an unambiguous commitment to the Jerusalem issue not being one of religious affairs, civilian affairs, an office that can be opened or must be closed, or a siege of the city. The issue is that Jerusalem is an Arab, Islamic, occupied territory that must be subject to Resolution 242 including its provision pertaining to the inadmissibility of occupying land by force. I believe that the Arab and Islamic countries and the Palestinians will not disagree over this point. Let this principle be enshrined in an Arab, Islamic resolution. Let Arab, Islamic action be based on this foundation. It is an issue of sovereignty, of liberation.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Urayqat, thank you very much. You are always welcome on the Voice of the Arabs.

['Urayqat] Do not mention it.

PA Official Views Relations, Other Issues

JN1112134694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Dec 94 pp 1, 30

[Report by Tawfiq 'Abid]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary to the Palestinian National Authority [Palestinian Authority, PA], has said that President Yasir 'Arafat will meet with His Majesty King Husayn on the sidelines of the Islamic summit, set to begin in Casablanca the day after tomorrow, Tuesday.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, he said 'Arafat is anxious to meet with His Majesty King Husayn at the Islamic summit. The date will then be fixed for a working visit to Amman by Mr. 'Arafat to lay new foundations for Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

On our side, 'Abd-al-Rahim said, we are anxious to lay new solid foundations for Jordanian-Palestinian ties inasmuch as Jordan, as well as Egypt, is our indispensable bridge to the Arab world.

On negotiations with Israel, he said we are trying to surmount the obstacles created by Israel and implement the interim period represented by redeployment of the Israeli military, elections, revision of the extant laws, and the transfer of the remaining powers.

Commenting on the Israeli proposal of a temporary withdrawal, 'Abd-al-Rahim said: We are bound by the Declaration of Principles and will not agree to the Israeli proposal. We insist on the Israeli military redeploying outside population centers and then we may negotiate another pullback to designated and agreed areas.

'Abd-al-Rahim reacted to Israel's reported attempt to have the Oslo accord amended by saying these are mere newspaper stories and that nothing official was raised at our talks with the Israelis.

On elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, he said the Palestinians want them held as soon as possible. However, he warned, if the Israelis continue to be obssessed by security concerns, things will be bogged down.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Asked about the inquiry into the bloody Gaza incidents, 'Abd-al-Rahim said the investigations are still going on and that a third party was involved. We have had access to relevant information and suspects are still under investigation. Once all who have evidence come forward, the findings will be published.

He noted that the situation in Gaza is now quiet and there is public recognition of a single authority and a universal commitment to political pluralism. Those who maintain that something is smoldering under the ashes have a vested interest in blackening the reputation of the Palestinian people, he asserted.

We observed to al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim that we saw him, along with Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, erase slogans from the walls in Gaza. We erased the provocative wording that it was agreed with the Hamas leadership we should do together, 'Abd-al-Rahim said.

Quray': No Seriousness in Oslo Talks

JN1112172494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1550 GMT 11 Dec 94

[Interview with Palestinian Authority member Ahmad Quray', by 'Umar Zaydani in Oslo; date not given; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zaydani] Abu-'Ala', How are the negotiations going with Israel here in Oslo?

[Quray'] Undoubtedly, there is difficulty. I think the schedule in the Declaration of Principles [DOP] is something very important that cannot be undermined or bypassed. The schedule is not a program of visits, it is a schedule of stages. This was discussed in depth and in a comprehensive manner during the negotiations in Oslo. I think there is disregard of the schedule. This may lead to a real disaster for the negotiations as a whole.

[Zaydani] Abu-'Ala', what is the problem with the Oslo agreement? In every stage difficult negotiations take place, as if there is no agreement on the DOP?

[Quray'] I do not see a problem if the principles were agreed on, because the principles set real bases. The problem is in the intention and the desire to implement and realize this agreement. When we speak about the transitional stage, the elements of this stage are clear. So why should we differ on them? The principles on security have been set, so why should we differ on it? The subject of withdrawal has been tackled in the agreement. Redeployment in specific areas, which means withdrawal, has also been mentioned in the agreement. Therefore, any maneuvering or circumvention is deviation from the substance of the subject [word indistinct].

[Zaydani] Do you think Israel tries to back out of the DOP?

[Quray'] I do not want to say this, but I say that I did not see a real seriousness to reach the transitional [word indistinct] which is the essence of the transitional stage. Why is this its essence? Because it speaks about withdrawal to certain positions. It speaks about the Palestinian jurisdiction on all of the West Bank except for the issues that concern the final stage. It speaks about elections, it speaks about transferring all authorities in the West Bank. Therefore, to deviate from this, means deviation from the core, essence, and spirit of the Oslo agreement.

[Zaydani] Why haven't the donor states fulfilled their commitments so far, in spite of all the meetings and agreements?

[Quray'] In spite of the importance of this subject, the most important subject now is implementation of the agreement and a commitment to implement it and to work for this objective by dealing in a serious spirit to do so. Our problem is not one of assistance, it is a subject of a homeland, a subject of people, it is the most important issue in the region.

Finance Minister: Currency Not Expected for 2 Years

JN1112153694 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 11 Dec 94 p 11

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Palestinian Finance Minister Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi has denied Palestinian monetary authorities intend to print Palestinian currency before economic guarantees are secured to preserve its value. He said the Jordanian dinar, the U.S. dollar, and the shekel will continue to be used.

Al-Nashashibi said issuing Palestinian currency is unlikely at present because this depends on making the decision, as well as on an indepth study to ensure guarantees necessary for any currency. It is easy to print money, but it is more difficult to preserve its value. Therefore, economic, monetary, political, and financial circumstances should be secured in which the monetary authorities can maintain the value of the currency before issuing it.

Al-Nashashibi said he does not expect currency to be issued for two years. [passage omitted]

On setting up new commercial and investment banks, he said the monetary authorities have approved establishing four banks in Gaza, while banks present in the West Bank before 1967 have reopened their branches there. These banks are the Real Estate Bank, Bank of Jordan, Cairo and Amman Bank, and the Arab Bank.

Al-Nashashibi said this number of banks is enough at the present stage, and said we will not expand by opening more banks in the West Bank until the investments that these banks will carry out are proven to be a success. Investing deposits is not enough; the banks should also invest with their capital. When we feel that these investments are not enough, we will allow the opening of new branches and new banks; at the same time we will ask

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

them to increase their capital. At present, the capital of any bank should not be less that $15 million.

Health Departments Assume Power

JN0312174994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Celebrations were held in the cities of Tulkarm, Ramallah, and Bethlehem to hoist the Palestinian flag over the health departments and public hospitals following the Palestinian National Authority's assumption of powers and responsibilities in the health sector. The wounded of the glorious intifadah hoisted the Palestinian flag over the aforementioned institutions. [passage omitted]

Popular Front To Set Up Party in Territories

TA1112060294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] of George Habash has decided to set up a political organization in the territories. Popular Front activists announced their plans in East Jerusalem and in Gaza. They said they planned to offer an option to the rule of Yasir 'Arafat and to fight for greater democracy.

Shaykh Hamami Interviewed on Hamas

TA1012135394 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Dec 94 p 15

[Report on interview with Shaykh Jamil Hamami, cofounder of Hamas, by Mikhal Sela'; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic movement is a rational political organization whose activists strive to operate in accordance with the daily changing circumstances in the region. It cannot publicly call for an armistice, but its leaders' readiness to negotiate with 'Arafat and Israel is a shift that was hardly conceivable a few months ago. This view was expressed by Shaykh Jamil Hamami, a cofounder of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Hamami, a teacher and public activist, manages the Islamic Association for Sciences and Culture, which has operated in Jerusalem for the past 10 years and which established a school that offers education from kindergarten through 10th grade. "Since our school evolved gradually, our first students will take matriculation exams in two years," Hamami says. The school enjoys a good reputation and many parents from various political affiliations seek to register their children there. Hamami frequently lectures at various West Bank locations and at the movement's political conventions, albeit within the perimeters set down by the military government. Nahshon Wachsman, the soldier who was abducted, was held in a house a few meters away from Hamami's house in Bi'r Nabala, north of Jerusalem. He asserts that his having been oblivious to that attests to the movement's true nature and to the link—or lack thereof—between the movement's political cadres and the violent terror squads, which Hamami calls the military group.

Hamami is a scholar conversant with the Koran and an avid reader of books on the history of the region. His discourse is eloquent and confident, and he does not shy away from argument and verbal confrontation. He recently met and held a lengthy discussion with Rabbi Menahem Fruman of Teqoa'. His description of such encounters: "It may do no good, but it will certainly do no harm either."

He is a cognizant member of the Islamic movement as a political organization, and he knows its history since Egyptian cleric Hasan al-Banna and his associates founded the first Muslim Brotherhood group in 1928. Hamami is a pleasant interlocutor, although any argument with him meant to result in a change of stands would be a very tough mission.

He gives a brief account of the events: The movement arrived in Eretz Yisra'el in 1936, "where its followers combined social issues with politics, education, and religion, as they had done in Egypt, Jordan, and other places." He lists the prominent religious figures from the very beginning: Shaykh Budayri, Shaykh Sa'di, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, Jum'a Salwadi, Shaykh Daman in Nabulus. According to him, movement circles participated in the uprising against British rule in the area.

The 1950's and 1960's were marked by a "political presence," in Hamami's words, but not much beyond that, due to the special political circumstances in Egypt and Jordan. Nasirism prevailed, he says, summing up the situation.

"In 1967, the regional Islamic movement was still in a process of recovery and reconstruction; the nation was still affected by the Nasirist propaganda. Left-wing parties were strong, but the Islamic movement had a social role."

The real awakening and growth of the Palestinian Islamic movement occurred gradually in the 1970's, and it owes quite a lot to the Israeli regime, from which it received aid and permits. The activity was carried out through charity societies and social associations. That activity was most conspicuous in Gaza. With a license from the military government, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and others established a series of legally registered Islamic societies. In parallel, the radical branch—the Islamic Jihad—was established, under the inspiration of Egyptian zealots. Anyone who wanted to preach religious lifestyles in the framework of the various societies—most notably the charity committees—in the West Bank, an activity which conformed with the operations of the Jordanian Religious Affairs Ministry's Awqaf, could have done so with hardly any Israeli interference.

"The movement existed in the field, but action outside the formal channels was impossible." This observation

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of Hamami's is typical of the Palestinian Islamic movement's traditional approach: A clear ideology while confining activities to the realm of the feasible. In Hamami's view, this is one of the secrets of the movement's power and prevalence.

The Palestinian Islamic movement grew, while retaining its idiosyncrasies, within the broader trend of growing and strengthening Muslim awareness and Islamic organizations throughout the Arab world. "The greater Islamic movement is in fact one movement, just like Zionism, with one uniting ideal: Islam. Yet the priorities are different in each country. In Palestine, there is a unique and dangerous confrontation: the conflict with the occupation. Compared with other Islamic movements, this is an extra burden on the shoulders of this movement."

The turning point occurred in December 1987.

Hamami attended the founding meeting of Hamas (an acronym for the Islamic Resistance Movement) at the home of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin on 14 December 1987. He remembers the day clearly. About a month later, he was detained in Jerusalem. The charges against him and the people with whom he had collaborated cited, among other things, his responsibility for transferring a donation made by Cat Stevens, the British singer who converted to Islam. The singer made contact with activists from Jerusalem following meetings with Israeli Islamic Movement activists in the Galilee.

Hamami does not elaborate on the details of the events of that period and the reasons for his arrest. "I was mainly interrogated because they wanted to understand how the system works. They wanted to know who pulled the strings." He was convicted and sentenced to 18 months in prison.

This was a turning point in the history of the Palestinian Islamic movement and political life. For the first time, movement activists defined themselves as a militant Palestinian political liberation movement, deviating from other Islamic groups. For the first time since 1967, a party was established in the Palestinian territories.

"The change was gradual. It began several years earlier." Hamami has difficulty providing a detailed explanation of the process that brought about the change, possibly preferring not to go into that for the time being. One of the standard explanations for the decision to declare the establishment of the movement was the growing tension in Gaza; the operations of the Islamic Jihad, which was mercilessly striking at Israelis; and perhaps a sound political sense that something was happening that required a realignment. The frequency of the events increased, and the public was out in the streets.

"Various factors brought on the decision. There was the occupation, the daily suffering of the people. We thought we might be able to serve the Palestinian people, to offer a solution to the problem. An Islamic solution. It is not that the entire nation was to become religious—that would be an unreasonable exaggeration—but if we could persuade them that our concept was feasible, that would rate as a success. The PLO was offering a secular solution, and we thought it was wrong, so we proposed the Islamic path."

Under the circumstances that prevailed primarily in the Gaza Strip but also in the West Bank in 1987, "the Islamic movement wanted to take action." That was how a movement was created in a new framework under a new name.

"It had a modest beginning. There was not much beyond an occasional stone or leaflet," Hamami describes the first steps in general terms. According to the charges against the first detainees, roles and areas of responsibility were assigned to the key activists at that founding meeting.

Hamami, still in prison, was taken by surprise when the first attacks on Israelis were carried out in the name of Hamas. "I was surprised. I did not believe we would get to that so quickly. There was a risk involved, and I did not know exactly how it had begun. I was afraid things would get out of control. It was natural for the people to turn to Shaykh Yasin; everyone turned to him then." Hamami implies that the murderers of soldiers Sasportas and Sa'adon sought Yasin's religious blessing before embarking on their mission.

It took them eight months to publish a movement platform—the Hamas Manifesto—a document full of Koran verses, ideology, and political tenets. Hamami says the document was compiled mainly in Gaza, "and it has a Gaza style. I relayed it to the Jerusalem and West Bank areas."

When Hamami was released from prison, he felt like a stranger in the movement he had cofounded. Many things—the people, the style, and the activity—were different.

His petition for admission into the PLO in 1989 was part of a basic dogma: Ideology should be combined with the prevailing rules of the game. If the PLO is the umbrella for the Palestinian organizations, one must belong to it. The attempt failed, and Hamami says it was because 'Arafat opposed the demand that religious law should be the only law of the future Palestinian state.

"Many aspects of the method, of the strategy changed along the way," Hamami says. The founding committee was responsible for all the operations, and it was small and compact. It was as a result of the arrests that it grew and became stronger "both inside and outside. It is easy to organize inside prisons, and the vacancies created by the arrests were readily filled by new recruits. The movement managed to permeate every stratum of society, and today there is a separation between the various operational systems. There is now greater

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

emphasis on political activity, which is separate from the military, social, and religious activities."

Hamami is not critical of the changes the movement has undergone over the years. On the contrary: "Political activity is the art of the possible. Tomorrow I may condone things I oppose today."

For that reason, Hamami is one of the supporters of a dialogue with the Israelis and with Israel. "I am one of those who believe that talks should be held with the Israelis. We have to achieve a cease-fire—perhaps through a third party—and declare that there will be no more killing of civilians on either side. The situation is complicated and intricate, however. Today Israel cannot talk with any element" other than the PLO.

Hamami's explanation of the violent clash between the police and the pro-Hamas crowd on 18 November, which Hamami terms a massacre, is related to this issue. "'Arafat may be afraid that Israel will talk with some element other than him, and that is why he is striking out at the Islamic movement."

Referring to a dialogue with Israel, Hamami is willing to talk of more than a cease-fire. "We should discuss the realization of the rights of the Palestinian people, because the PLO has not been able to secure even its barest demands. Continuing the negotiations in their present format is tantamount to suicide." Yet he reiterates: "We are not proposing direct negotiations with Israel, but rather negotiations through a third party."

What will he talk about? "The first step is defusing the bomb, disbanding the settlements, and withdrawing to the 1967 borders. Then, in an atmosphere of cease-fire, we will be able to meet and seriously discuss a solution."

And beyond the 1967 borders? "The Israelis have a complex. We are not anti-Jewish, and I could never think of taking revenge," he says, recalling the Jews' greatness in the Islamic Kingdom of Spain. "Even Muhammad's weapon was entrusted to the Jews upon his death." Yet he has a problem with the political conduct of contemporary Israel: "How could a man like Goldstein be permitted to come and receive Israeli citizenship, while a Palestinian living in Kuwait cannot even visit his relatives?"

Before contacts are forged with Israel, the Palestinian groups should hold an internal dialogue among themselves, Hamami believes. "I acknowledge the existence of the Palestinian Authority, but I want the occupation to get out of all of Palestine, not just Gaza and Jericho. 'Arafat cannot proceed alone; he is pressured by Rabin, and he is forced to agree to Rabin's demands."

Meanwhile, military operations are a difficult and sensitive matter. He asserts that there is no single military headquarters, that members of the political echelons speak in one language and the military echelons in another. Things are obscure.

Yet it is impossible to call for a cessation of military operations. "No element can condemn military actions, not in public. But even if such a call is made, it will not be heeded, because there is no direct link. To wit. Shaykh Hamid al-Baytawi and Shaykh Ahmad Yasin issued an appeal to spare the life of Nahshon Wachsman, but he was hurt nevertheless."

Hamas is still not a structurally organized institution. The party leadership does not have an official council. There are acknowledged leaders, but under the present conditions of uncertainty the more charismatic leaders prefer to keep a low profile, because they are no longer young and are all sick and tired of prison. There are no frameworks such as an "executive committee." A council of religious sages has been established in the West Bank, but it is not recognized in Gaza. The movement does not have membership fees.

There is a craving for a better organization and structure, but this is still not so—perhaps because they do not know how to go about it or are uncertain of the reaction. Perhaps it is a matter of an underground mentality which has still not vanished. There are also differences of opinion regarding the level of institionalization and pragmatism required to meet the changing circumstances.

Hamami, who is one of the moderates, is very cautious. He hints that he does not have direct contacts. "I heard a proposal was raised to turn the movement into a party. This is logical, and even necessary under the present circumstances. Certainly in Gaza itself, where the occupation is defunct." Why are there elections in Fatah but not in Hamas? "Perhaps because Fatah is part of the PLO." It is assumed that the Islamic Movement is still not ripe for such a high-level of institionalization.

"The idea is crucial, because it reflects the vital nature of the movement." It is apparently necessary, however, to overcome obstacles preventing this structural reorganization. "Religious law does not ban the establishment of a party or political activity. Elections are preferable to usurpation."

Hamami believes elections for the Palestinian Authority [PA] council—currently under discussion between Israel and the Palestinians—is a difficult issue. Many have already expressed the opinion that if elections are held Hamas should participate. Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and others subscribe to the view that a bad idea must be opposed, but once it has been accepted and has become a fact on the ground, Hamas should operate within the framework of the new reality.

Hamami agrees. At this point he is against elections, because Hamas is opposed to the entire Oslo agreement framework. "The movement has expressed its position against participating in elections based on the Oslo agreement, because this entire agreement is inappropriate for the Palestinian people. Rabin himself keeps reiterating that the elected council will have no authority beyond directing affairs."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

At the same time Hamami is not opposed to elections for a Palestinian parliament. "It is preferable to give the Palestinian nation full freedom, to give it self-determination just like other nations. Otherwise the problem will remain a sore spot in the region."

Hamami continues: "One cannot tell. Circumstances around us are changing daily and it is hard to tell what tomorrow will bring. Six months ago nobody thought Hamas would propose talking with Israel or the PA. Who knows, this could be commensurate with the circumstances. Sometimes general interest prevails over particular interests."

How do we get out of the vicious circle? "I have no solution, but all the people living in the region are entitled to live in peace." How can you explain this to the mother of Li'at Gabay [a young Israeli woman murdered in 'Afula by a Hamas member]? Hamami was asked this question a short while after the murder. "She should meet a Palestinian mother whose son has been murdered."

Al-Zahhar Faults Workings of Conciliation Committee

TA1212085294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders in the Gaza Strip, has criticized the workings of the joint conciliation committee set up by the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that according to Dr. al-Zahhar, the committee is working slowly and the only thing it has done so far is to erase graffiti from Gaza Strip walls. Al-Zahhar also said that the PA representatives on the committee are speaking in the name of Fatah rather than the PA and that this is designed to shirk responsibility.

Hamas: Movement Ready for Town Hall Elections

NC1212115394 Paris AFP in English 1115 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Dec 12 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas is ready to take part in town hall elections and is negotiating with the Palestinian Authority for an early ballot, a senior fundamentalist said Monday [12 December].

"We asked to have municipal elections as soon as possible," Hamas leader 'Imad al-Faluji told AFP.

He estimated that Hamas, which is fighting on against Israeli occupation, would win at least 40 percent of the vote.

But al-Faluji stressed that the movement would not participate in elections to an autonomy council unless it was totally independent from Israel and had real legislative power, including the power to scrap the 1993 self-rule agreement.

"We welcome the authority...and we are ready to work together in daily life," he said. "But there are big differences between municipal elections and autonomy elections."

Al-Faluji said he took part in negotiations on Saturday with the Palestinian local government minister Sa'ib 'Urayqat.

"The negotiations are difficult, but they will continue and we hope we will be able to provide a service for our people," al-Faluji said.

The mainstream PLO group Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Islamic Jihad also attended the talks.

However 'Urayqat told AFP the meetings were intended to set up temporary councils in Gaza to prepare for elections, as had already been done in the self-rule enclave of Jericho.

"All factions are involved whether or not they support the peace process. This about public service and not about political issues," 'Urayqat said.

"We hope in the next few days that our meetings in Gaza will lead to the appointment of a 16-member council for the Strip."

It would take over from "independent" councillors appointed by 'Arafat several months ago.

Israel and the Palestinians are due to resume talks on Wednesday in Cairo on a military redeployment on the West Bank to allow for elections to an autonomy council.

Municipal elections would take place separately after autonomy elections, 'Urayqat said.

In Gaza the last municipal elections were held in 1945 under the British mandate and in 1976 on the West Bank.

Islamic Jihad Leader Criticizes 'Arafat

TA1012193094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Dec 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, one of the leaders of Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, has criticized 'Arafat, saying he has traveled to Oslo at the expense of the Palestinian people—their tears, troubles, and wounds.

Al-Shami: Peace With Jews, Not With Israel

TA0912195594

[FBIS Editorial Report] Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 9 December airs a video report by Shlomi Eldar on the situation in the Gaza Strip. The report includes a recorded interview with 'Abdallah al-Shami, an Islamic

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Jihad leader, in Gaza "this week." The interview is broadcast in Arabic with Hebrew subtitles and is translated from the Arabic.

Asked by Eldar whether a peace agreement can be achieved between Israel and the Islamic front some day, al-Shami replies: "There could be peace with the Jews as a people but not as a state on the land of Palestine. The land of Palestine does not belong to Israel. You force us to emigrate, you expel us from our land and force us to live in various places in the diaspora. You bring settlers and Jewish immigrants from all over the world to our place in order to plant them on our land. Then you ask us to make peace with you?"

Asked about the phenomenon of martyrdom, al-Shami says: "We do not possess the military hardware our enemy possesses. We do not have planes, missiles, or even a cannon with which we can fight the injustice. The most effective tool to inflict damage and harm with the least possible losses is operations of this nature. This is a legitimate method based on martyrdom. The martyr gets the privilege of entering paradise and frees himself from pain and misery."

Daily: Rabin To Circumvent Provisions of DOP

TA0912172194 Jericho AL-AQSA in Arabic 30 Nov 94 p 5

[Commentary by Khalid 'Umar: "Between Two Options"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabin's remark that incorrect calculations have been discovered in the Declaration of Principles [DOP] seems like a political joke that elicits only laughter. This discovery means nothing to us because, according to all calculations, it is one more of Rabin's continuous attempts to avoid implementing the DOP. We totally reject these attempts, because an agreement is an agreement. That applies not only to this agreement but to all agreements in the world throughout history.

Nonetheless, the ongoing political debate within Israeli political circles seems to indicate that there are three options for dealing with the DOP and specifically with the issues of the redeployment of the occupation forces outside Palestinian population centers and the elections. The first option is to implement the DOP in accordance with its clear provisions and proceed with the negotiations on this basis. The second option is to introduce modifications to the DOP, especially concerning the redeployment, under the pretext of security, which means the security of settlements, which has recently been highlighted more than ever before. The third option is to embark right now on negotiations on the issue of settlement activity and settlements, which has been postponed until the final stage.

When one considers these options, it is not strange that Rabin has opted for the second one, as proven by his trial balloon about a three-day withdrawal, from which he quickly backed down when confronted with the facts as clearly stipulated in the DOP. Nonetheless, this trial balloon is indicative of the nature of Rabin's thoughts at this time.

On the basis of this premise, Rabin may resort to trading redeployment for elections. He may accept the Palestinian proposal on elections in return for a compromise on the redeployment issue. The trial balloon is indicative of this approach, especially since he linked his proposal to Israel's agreement to holding the elections immediately.

This proves that Rabin is trying to circumvent the provisions of the DOP. Assuming that there are flaws in the DOP, those flaws can in no way be corrected by backing down from the DOP but only by responding to the clear Palestinian proposition that settlement activity poses a great danger to peace and to the agreements. This issue, therefore, should be dealt with right now at the negotiating table and should not be avoided by reneging on the DOP under some pretext. This will never be accepted.

Rabin has two and not three options: He can either sincerely and totally adhere to the letter of the DOP or he can quickly advance the political process by putting the settlement issue on the negotiating table as a prelude to ending settlement activity—a phenomenon of the occupation that poses the greatest danger to the peace process.

Group, 'Israeli Extreme Left Wing' Protest Closure

TA1112180894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Several dozen Palestinian demonstrators, including Faysal al-Husayni and a few representatives of the Israeli extreme left wing, today staged a protest near the Ra's al-'Amud checkpoint in East Jerusalem against the closure and against what they termed collective punishment meted to the residents of the territories. Our correspondent Dani Zaqen was there:

[Begin recording] [Zaqen] Members of the Palestinian Center for the Study of Nonviolence, who organized the protest, told the media that hundreds would attend and informed the police that about 1,500 would be there. However, the protest at the Ra's al-'Amud checkpoint at midday today was attended almost exclusively by Faysal al-Husayni, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, Latif Dori, and several representatives of the Israeli extreme left wing. The hundreds waiting policemen remained idle, and even al-Husayni complained about the meager participation.

The demonstration aimed at protesting the closure which, according to the Palestinians, separates Jerusalem—their business, medical, and cultural center—from the residents of Judaea and Samaria. Faysal al-Husayni defined the closure as a violation of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement. He added that those who said in

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Oslo last night that the prize was not necessarily awarded in accordance with actual progress, were right.

Al-Husayni admitted that beyond the practical significance of severing Jerusalem from Judaea and Samaria, the Palestinians fear that the Israeli political stand on the city was becoming more inflexible.

[Al-Husayni] [passage omitted] If you ask me, I personally would like to see Jerusalem not only as the capital of two states, the Palestinian and the Israeli; it is my dream that Jerusalem will be the capital of the entire Middle East. [end recording]

Egypt Refuses Entry to Deportees From Libya

JN1112171794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Two Palestinian children died from severe cold at the Egyptian al-Sallum post on the Egyptian-Libyan borders yesterday where 30 Palestinian families have been detained in the open since early November, after the Libyan government deported them to Egypt, which in its turn has refused to let them in.

A security official at the al-Sallum border post said last Monday [5 December] that the Egyptian authorities had set as condition for receiving the Palestinian families that they obtain Israel's permission to enter the Palestinian Authority [PA] territories. The Egyptian official said that contacts are under way between Egypt, Israel and the PA.

The Libyan police announced that most of the Palestinian families have Egyptian travel documents.

Local Government Minister Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat has commented on the Palestinian families presence at the Egyptian-Libyan borders.

[Begin 'Urayqat recording] Two months ago, President Yasir 'Arafat received a letter from our ambassador in Libya that the Libyan authorities intend to deport more than 2,000 Palestinians. Egypt and the Arab League were contacted at the time and the issue was listed on the Arab League's agenda.

We were all surprised at the presence of the Palestinian families at Al-Sallum border post. His excellency the president held intensive contacts, through our ambassador at the Arab League, to settle this tragedy. As you know, we are now in the process of invigorating the four-way committee on the return of the displaced. The committee comprises Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Palestine. We ask ourselves whether Libya's vast lands cannot accommodate these 30 families? We ask this under the canopy of what is taking place on the regional level. We say that the only solution, the exemplary solution, and the real solution is to enable these families to return to their homeland, as only their homeland will welcome them.

But, unfortunately, there are procedures and negotiations which are under way with the Israeli side on the return of the displaced, to be followed by negotiations on the issue of refugees.

The al-Sallum issue has been listed on the Arab League Council agenda. We hope the Arab League would put an end to this tragedy. Libya, most certainly, can accommodate some 30 persons. We asked the Egyptian authorities to allow them to go in until the formalities with Israel are completed and they be allowed to enter the PA territories.

As I said, this is a tragedy. We have been informed about it and we are following it day by day. The issue now deals with 30 persons. But, the issue in general concerns thousands. There are people who remain at airports for months. There are those who are refused entry into a country where they have been living all their lives. This is a problem all Palestinian people face. As I have said, we ask all the Arab countries to open their arms to these Palestinian families. We loudly say that the natural place for the Palestinian people is on Palestinian soil. We again call on the Arab countries, on Arab leaders, to understand the circumstances we now experience in terms of difficult and arduous negotiations with the Israeli side, particularly on a basic issue, the issue of the displaced now and the refugees later on. We ask them to open their arms for a specific period of time and tell them that the natural place for the Palestinian people is on their land and their homeland. [end recording]

Norway To Donate to PA; Sweden To Send Mediator

TA0112164194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Norway is about to donate $22 million to the Palestinian Authority [PA] to rebuild the Gaza Strip's electric system and set up an electric company. Our correspondent Dan Zaqen reports that, at a ceremony in Gaza, the Norwegian representative promised that the initial sum will be handed over in several days so that it will be possible to purchase equipment and installations and replace existing installations.

Sweden will send to the Middle East former Foreign Minister Sten Andersson to try to advance the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. He will also confer with senior PA officials to discuss the aid Sweden intends to grant it.

Agreement Signed With Norway

JN0112190194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the patronage of His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, head of the National Authority, an agreement was signed between the National Authority [NA] and the Norwegian government at the Presidency in Gaza today. Under the agreement, the NA will be given $2 million out of the $22

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

million that were allocated for the purchase of equipment to repair the Gaza electricity grid.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamad, chairman of the Palestinian economic council in Gaza, signed the agreement for the PA, while (Stevens Sidi) signed it for the Norwegian government.

Paper on Christopher Message During Visit

TA0812180094 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 8 Dec 94 pp 8, 7

[Editorial: "Christopher Speaks in Two Languages"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Perhaps what we dislike most about U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is the fact that he speaks in two languages at the same time. On arriving at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday, he said that Israel cannot redeploy its army in the West Bank unless the PLO guarantees its security. Then, he added that the army's redeployment should not be delayed. What does Christopher want to tell us? Since assuming power in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian National Authority has striven to impose its authority and establish security not only in this part of the Palestinian territories, but also in various parts of the West Bank. This has not been an easy task. Israel's attempt to avoid implementing the clauses of the Declaration of Principles [DOP], however, is behind what Christopher said. Apparently, Christopher made these remarks, as usual, to soothe Israeli feelings. Israel does not intend to pay the price of peace, because Israeli public opinion is not sympathetic toward the Palestinians due to suicidal and other operations that have been carried out against Israeli civilian and military targets. In other words, this means that the Israelis do not want to promote the DOP with the Palestinians.

The question posed by the Palestinians is this: If the Israeli Government is not committed to implementing the DOP's clauses, what does it want to do? The witnesses to the Oslo agreement signed in Washington were the United States and Russia. They were the countries that guaranteed implementation of the agreement. Do they accept for the region to take reverse steps toward darkness? When Israel calls for stopping the peace process, this does not mean that it will be stopped on the Palestinian track alone but that all efforts that have been exerted on all tracks will be derailed. Will Washington and Moscow remain spectators to such developments?

The Palestinian side has adhered to both the letter and the spirit of the agreement. So, what is the meaning of Israeli procrastination in implementing its other clauses—the withdrawal of the Israeli army from Palestinian towns as a prelude to conducting elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for a Palestinian national governing authority? This step is supposed to be followed by other steps and a period in which the Palestinians will assume the responsibilities of government in their territories until agreement is reached between the Palestinians and the Israelis on a final settlement.

The Palestinians made sacrifices and concessions to achieve the Oslo agreement and the DOP. They opened the door for Israel to reach agreements and settlements with the Arab states and establish relations that it never dreamed of establishing. If it is eager to continue this progress, it should commit itself to implement the agreement. One's interests must not be achieved at the expense of others. Moreover, the dangers in backing down from the agreement are very great. If some voices in the Israeli Government are calling for canceling the "redeployment" clause from the agreement, they must realize that every clause of the agreement is connected to the other clauses. The Palestinians cannot accept having the agreement divided. They also reject Israeli allegations that serve as a pretext for not implementing the agreement in its entirety.

Israel is mistaken if it believes that the weakness of the Arab and Palestinian position means that it can impose on them what it wants. If the Arab parties cannot wrest their rights today, this does not mean that Israel can impose its will on them. In the final analysis, Israel will be wasting the current golden opportunity for achieving peace. Then, Israel will be the biggest loser.

Does Christopher realize this, or is he not concerned about what will happen in the distant future?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algeria

'Secret' Report Reveals Election Strategy

MM1212092494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Dec 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—A few days ago Algerian presidential organs submitted a secret report to President Liamine Zeroual on the "strategy" for the next presidential elections. The report, which AL-HAYAH has read, covers the preparations, predictions, and names of the figures expected to run in the elections.

In its introduction the report stresses the "vital need" to hold the presidential elections on the set date before the end of next summer, because the economic situation requires urgent and practical solutions before March—the date set with the IMF for rescheduling Algeria's debts for another year in order to secure for Algeria $4 billion to tackle its economic crisis and the escalating activities of the Islamists, who are now "very close" to power.

The report stresses "the need for the government to urgently make material and human preparations and to prepare credible draft laws through acceptable experts"—a hint at the possibility of introducing a change or amendment to the government organ so as to adapt to the election stage, an adaptation requiring "dynamism within political equilibrium."

On the security situation, the report says it is necessary to hit the strongholds and circles of "terrorism," including all areas in the framework of the undeclared "state of exception" [higher degree of state of emergency] which should continue until the end of next February.

The report expects the number of victims to increase—which obliges government agencies to prepare special laws for those affected by violence and terrorist operations, and to include them among those benefiting from the social grants to be placed at their disposal within a special budget managed by the Labor Ministry. It has been learned that the Labor Ministry has received a list of 42,000 people affected by violence.

The report focuses on dealing with the opposition parties—especially the National Liberation Front, the Socialist Forces Front, and the Islamic Salvation Front—in a manner consistent with the aims of the transitional phase. The reports proposes dealing with the fronts as following:

First, The Islamic Salvation Front:

The report rules out its participation in the presidential elections on the pretext that it is "outlawed." And because it refused before public opinion to condemn terrorism and respect the Constitution. The report urges "fighting" it on the international scene.

Second, The National Liberation Front:

The report says that Abdelhamid Mehri, the Front's secretary general, is the Salvation Front's natural ally and the main inciter behind the "Rome seminar." The report calls for putting an end to "his role as the Front's secretary general, since he does not represent any partisan legitimacy. Because his brother-in-law, former President Chadli Bendjedid, imposed him on the Liberation Front and its political leadership."

The report proposes that he should be replaced by Ali Kafi (former chairman of the Higher State Council and currently secretary general of the Mujahidin [war veterans] Organization [munazzamat al-mujahidin]) or Abdelaziz Belkhadem (former speaker of the National Assembly and currently member of the Front's Political Bureau).

Third, The Social Forces Front:

The report urges "continuing the contacts with the party, especially its leader Hocine Ait Ahmed, and opening the door to its activities in order to curb the extremism by which his rival, Said Sadi (secretary general of the Rally for Culture and Democracy), and the (extremist) Islamic parties are characterized."

As for the other opposition parties, the report urges "providing them with the necessary resources to boost their presence on the scene alongside national organizations and associations."

The report says that "if matters proceed in the specified manner, the influential parties' boycott of the presidential elections will have no effect on the elections course, because the Salvation Front is frozen legally, and the Liberation Front and the Social Forces Front are participating (in the elections) positively."

The report talks about names expected to run for the presidency:

1. President Zeroual: He is the one most likely to win, because he represents "national consensus" and enjoys the military's trust.

2. Redha Malek: "one of the democratic faces." And "he enjoys the respect of the civilian society." "He is a moderate man." He represents the central region.

3. Yousef El Khatib (former head of the dialogue committee and currently a presidential adviser): one of the 1 November mujahidin.

4. Mohamed Abdelghani (prime minister in the days of Houari Boumediene) and Abdelaziz Bouteflika (both from the western region).

5. Hocine Ait Ahmed. His problem is that he represents the tribes region.

6. Ahmed Talib Brahimi: He is expected to be the Liberation Front's candidate. He has a good relationship

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

with the Islamists. He is most likely to win if Zeroual does not run for the presidency. If he does run, Brahimi will be his main rival.

'Acceptable Security Conditions' Expected Soon

MM0912162494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Dec 94 pp1, 4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Algerian Government Expects Issue To Be Decided Militarily Before Summer"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] London—Algerian diplomatic sources yesterday said they expected the government's security forces to complete their current ongoing campaign against the areas under the control of the armed Islamic groups to be completed within months. They added that President Liamine Zeroual's regime would be able to hold presidential elections "in acceptable security conditions" next summer.

The sources told AL-HAYAH that over the past few days the security forces achieved significant results in their campaign against the groups and were able to "purge" vast areas of the "terrorists" in the east, west, and center. They spoke of many "betrayals" by members of the groups who "surrendered" to the security forces last month, which enabled the security forces to attack groups' hideouts and liquidate their leaders. They added that three days ago the security forces managed to kill five of the groups' "amirs" [chiefs] who were meeting near Constantine (eastern Algeria) and that the operation was carried out on the basis of "information" received. [passage omitted]

They also said that it is "now common knowledge" that many cities which in the past came under the control of gunmen at night are now under the control of the security forces. The security forces began their campaign last November after the failure of the dialogue with the FIS. [passage omitted]

They added that the authorities know that they cannot completely destroy the "terrorists" in a short period of time but they are determined to "ensure a reasonable degree of security in the country that would make possible the presidential elections" promised by President Zeroual in his speech to the nation on the eve of the 40th anniversary of the liberation revolution on 31 October. [passage omitted]

Asked if the FIS would be permitted to officially put forward names of its members as candidates, they replied that "the FIS is dissolved at present and cannot put forward candidates in its name but it can back any candidate it likes, and such a candidate can compete freely with the other candidates." [passage omitted]

UGTA Head Supports Institution of Presidency

LD1012234394 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Abdelhak Benhamouda, the secretary-general of the General Union of Algerian Workers [UGTA], today met workers in Mila in preparation for the UGTA's conference. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss the conditions of the workers at this stage and the need to preserve their gains, Sellaoui Laabidi reports:

[Laabidi] In his meeting today with trade unionists, Abdelhak Benhamouda discussed several issues regarding special preparations for UGTA's 9th conference and the social and economic conditions of the working class at the stage where the country is preparing itself to embrace a market economy, a stage that requires solidarity between the workers in order to preserve the gains they had achieved. [passage omitted] Mr. Benhamouda went on to say:

[Begin Benhamouda recording] At the time when the national dialogue conference was convened some people wanted to leave the country in a state of political vacuum. They said the UGTA supports Liamine Zeroual. Of course we do. Did they want us to leave the country with no president? Would you accept that? I would like to put this question to you: Is it really logical to have a country with no president? What would the fate of such a country be? They are against us because we did not want the country to enter a state of sedition. They say that we are the ones who brought Liamine Zeroual as a president and that we have been supporting him. When the UGTA takes tough stances or threatens sometimes to stage strikes, they start saying: There is the UGTA trying to destroy and sabotage the country. While the president introduces dialogue they want to destroy it! People should make up their minds whether they are with or against Zeroual. People should understand that when they address public opinion they should not contradict themselves. While we respect the president because he is the symbol of an institution, we could disagree with him on his program and his policy. So the matter is not a matter of tying the organization to individuals; the matter is one of defense of the country's institutions. The presidency of the republic is an institution not an individual. The UGTA in this whole situation has its program. [end recording] [passage omitted]

'Fraternity' Denounces Regime, Opposition

MM0912161894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Dec 94 p4

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH— The "Algerian Fraternity Association in France," which is attached to the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], has criticized some parties currently opposed to the ruling regime as well as FIS without naming them. It said that they were now trying t deceive public opinion and that they were never against the regime. It strongly attacked the "ruling clique."

A statement issued by the association yesterday said:

"Since the 11 January 1992 military coup, which was considered to be an offensive by the army generals who

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

had dominated the civilian society for 30 full years, the Muslim Algerian people have been living a real tragedy. Those tyrants have used all the repressive measures common in the South American dictatorships to save the Algeria of 'privileges.'"

It added: "There are more than 20,000 political detainees in the clique's prisons, more than 25,000 people have been killed by the oppressive clique's executioners, over 1000 people have been sentenced to death by special courts, thousands of innocent people have been sent to concentration camps in remote areas in the extreme south, hundreds have died under torture, thousands of homes have been destroyed over the heads of their owners, dozens of villages and forests have been shelled with napalm and phosphorous bombs, not to mention the abductions and political disappearances. That is the incomplete result of the security policy of the clique as it tries to save itself by eradicating the Muslim Algerian people." It continued: "That policy was, to a large extent, supported by some so-called parties (communist, secular) which were dwarfed in the elections. Now they are trying to deceive national and international public opinion by pretending to be against the regime as well as the FIS. These parties were never against the clique. On the contrary, they were the parties which, immediately after the legisilative elections, urged the Army to resist the people's choice. They did so through provocative articles in the clique's press and through demonstrations in the capital's streets."

It pointed out that "contrary to what some people believe, there is no alternative way out of the crisis. The only legitimate way is the one chosen by the Muslim people against the oppressive clique. The current tragedy is the result of a legitimate jihad by the persecuted vast majority of the Algerian people against an illegitimate, corrupt, and unjust regime trying to remain in power by every means with the moral and material support of some states which claim to uphold human rights."

It added: "Furthermore, Algerians (Islamists) are being illegally deported from France to Africa, others handed over to their executioners in Algeria regardless of the death threat to them, and others are placed under house arrest or in detention because of their views, while one group is allowed to demonstrate freely in Paris' streets. With such actions they encourage state terrorism against the Algerian people, and that includes the exaggerated media campaigns and pursuit of FIS supporters in France, all in violation of the Geneva conventions on human rights approved by France."

In conclusion, it said: "We strongly condemn these blackout campaigns and the policy of double standards and we reaffirm absolute support for the martyr Algerian people and defenders of their Islamic plan."

MCB Leader: Boycott To Go On Until Demands Met

LD1012152694 Algiers Radio Algiers in Berber 1200 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Ferhat Mehenni, national coordination leader of the Berber Cultural Movement [MCB], is meeting the press this lunchtime at the Lalla Khadidja hotel in Tizi Ouzou. Mokrane Berrached is there:

[Berrached] In this meeting with the press which is still in progress, Ferhat Mehenni, a national coordinator for the MCB, said that the MCB decided to end the two-week boycott [of talks, before latest round] to give the government the opportunity to find a solution that is acceptable to both parties. Ferhat Mehenni's despair was evident although he said he still has some hope.

The MCB's national coordination leader criticized the government which has not shown goodwill to solve this issue, nor has it shown any interest in the plight of nearly one million school children who have still not started the new academic year.

Ferhat Mehenni said the government should show some indication that it has accepted the MCB's demands, otherwise we are ready to boycott schools for one, two, or three years, or for as long as it takes and the people are behind the MCB.

Before the beginning of the meeting, the MCB's national coordination leader asked for a minute of silence in memory of all the journalists killed by terrorism, including the latest victim, Said Mekbel. He also took the opportunity of the human rights day to attack terrorism. Ferhat Mehenni also attacked government censorship of MCB journalists.

[Announcer] I remind you that the MCB's national commission under the chairmanship of Djamal Zennati met in Bejaia yesterday. All these meetings followed the meetings held with Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi last Wednesday and Thursday.

Still on the Tamazight issue, the students of Bejaia secondary schools demonstrated this morning to demand the introduction of Tamazight into the school curriculum.

Security Services Report Arrests, Operations

Two Armed Groups Targeted

LD0912154594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Berber 1130 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces have arrested the members of two armed groups in the Algiers districts of Eucalyptus and El Harrach.

In another communique, the security forces have also announced that they have killed a terrorist in Oran. The man in question is aged 27 and called Nessakh Abessamad. He lived in the El Hamri district of Oran. He has for a long time been wanted by the security services.

Six 'Terrorists' Killed; Group Disbanded

LD1112193994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement issued by the security services today reports that a terrorist group was disbanded on 9 December by security forces in Ain Temouchent.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The same statement said that following information they had received, security forces on Friday carried out a search operation in Oued Berkache in Ain Temouchent and were able to eliminate six terrorists and recover an amount of weapons.

Three of the six terrorists have been identified. They are Mestari Boutaleb, Mokhtari Youssef, and Karama Mansour, all of whom live in Sidi Bel Abbes and were wanted for committing a series of assassinations and sabotage acts.

'Terrorist' Killed; Hostages Freed

Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The security services today said that their forces had killed a terrorist in Souidania in the province of Tipaza after he had attempted to kill a security officer and had held a family hostage in a building. He was killed by the security forces, and the hostages were freed safely. [passage omitted]

In another statement today, the security services said that their forces had killed 27 terrorists between 6 and 10 December.

Egypt

Mubarak Views Domestic, Foreign Issues

NC1012191894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)—In a meeting with judiciary personnel, President Husni Mubarak expressed his respect for Egypt's judicial system and men of law. Perhaps this goes without saying, he said, but it is the right of the judiciary that I reiterate this all my life.

The president stressed his full appreciation for the men of the judiciary, who are a source of pride to every Egyptian. The men of the judiciary, who work to ensure justice for all, are of unvarying value and are respected by every one in the society, he said.

This was reported by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, who explained that the president, in his meeting with the men of the judiciary, discussed several domestic issues and Egypt's foreign policy toward world issues.

On whether the ticket system or the individual system should be used in elections, al-Sharif said that President Mubarak declared his eagerness to listen to all views on how the poll should be conducted in Egypt. He stressed that any violation of the Constitution should be avoided. The president referred to his remarks during his address to the joint session of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council.

The president said that, if the ideas and views on electoral methods produce nothing new calling for an amendment, then the existing system will remain in force. The main thing, he said, is to choose a system that is in accordance with the Constitution, the welfare of society, and the desires of the public.

The information minister said that President Mubarak explained the development of economic reforms in Egypt. The president said he had been honest with the people from the beginning when he told them that they would have to bear some burden as a result of the reforms. However, the economic reform program, he noted, was the best—indeed the only—option for extricating the country from the economic crisis and avoiding a further, irreversible collapse. He said clear lessons could be learned from the experience of many countries that failed to absorb the inevitability of reforms.

Al-Sharif cited the president as stressing that, despite the difficulties Egypt has experienced over the past years, the Egyptian people have been knowledgeable and considerate. We always bore in mind people's capabilities and tried to avoid putting unbearable burdens on the citizenry, he said.

President Mubarak pointed out that the agreements signed with the IMF and other financial institutions took into account two basic dimensions: First, that the economic reform program must be genuinely Egyptian, address economic policies, and achieve national economic objectives. Second, that the agreements take into consideration the societal dimension.

The president explained the obstacles that stood in the way of discussions with the IMF at various stages. He explained that the IMF wanted to tax bank deposits made by Egyptians. He said that Egypt rejected the proposal, which would have had a negative effect on the remittances and deposits of Egyptians and on the availability of reserves to stabilize the Egyptian economy.

The information minister said President Mubarak also explained the negative repercussions that would have occurred if the proposal for devaluing the Egyptian pound had been accepted. He said Egypt rejected this demand because, since the beginning of the reforms, the principle of the market determining the true value of the Egyptian pound against other currencies has been in force. He also noted that the basic principle of liberalizing the Egyptian economy means liberalizing the exchange rate in accordance with market mechanisms, without the state intervening in the exchange rate of the dollar to the Egyptian pound. The devaluation of the pound, the president explained, would have meant higher inflation, a higher budget deficit, and an increase in uncalculated prices. This would also have negatively affected exports and Central Bank reserves, he said. He explained that reserves held by the Central Bank belong to the depositors, not to the state, but that they represent a source of stability and help the Egyptian economy meet its obligations.

According to Information Minister al- Sharif, President Mubarak said that because Egypt adopts clear stances,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

adheres to its interests, and commits itself to the social dimensions in its economic reform program, it occasionally comes under attacks by certain international newspapers, although other papers publish the facts and cite international establishments on the soundness of the Egyptian economy.

President Mubarak said that national commitment to the interests of the people and the homeland will not be affected by criticism or false reports. We will cling to our policy and address our issues with awareness and freedom from emotion, he said, adding: We will disregard the attacks on our policy.

Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak pointed out that the commercial fraud law was intended to develop and modernize old laws that have not been amended for years. He noted that these laws no longer serve the purpose for which they were enacted due to changes in international trade and local markets, as well as developments in the costs and means of production. Hence, it was necessary for the government to enact the commercial fraud law to protect consumers and take care of the health of the citizens. He said that the law confronts the crooked merchants but protects the honest producers. President Mubarak disclosed that he returned the commercial fraud law to the cabinet to stiffen the punishments in cases involving the health of citizens and that an expanded ministerial meeting was held last Thursday [8 December] to reformulate certain clauses of the law.

President Mubarak expressed his surprise at reports that certain companies called on the cabinet to delay issuing the law. He said that, as far as the commercial fraud law is concerned, he will not delay in issuing it at the expense of the people, their interests, and their health. He went on to say that no one has a right to request delaying a law that confronts fraud and protects the consumers. He said that honest merchants must trust their products and adhere to the highest specifications. He said that he is sure that honest merchants appreciate the patriotic motives that dictate putting the people's interests first.

Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak explained that the philosophy behind the severe punishment is to deter anyone who allows fraud. He said that is why the law was returned to the cabinet for reformulation so that the punishment will deter fraudulent merchants. He noted that it is unreasonable to enact laws that can be circumvented.

On rumormongering, President Mubarak said that certain people regularly spread rumors through individuals inside and outside Egypt. They think that these rumors will pressure the government in its decisionmaking, whether in confronting all extremists and terrorists, in adhering to certain economic policies in the interest of the people, or in causing it to abandon its firm stances and principles on a number of regional and international issues. President Mubarak said they are mistaken if they believe that they will succeed because these rumors will not pressure us nor affect our decisionmaking. He said: Since I assumed power I have adhered to independent decisionmaking.

President Mubarak said that Egypt was the first to call for making the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and noted that this is a firm stand. He said that Egypt adopts firm stances on Arab, regional, and international issues, which may anger some people. He said that rumormongering is absolutely not a means of applying pressure. He said that he will not bend under any pressure whatsoever, that the interests of the homeland are above everything, and noted that everyone knows that these rumors are false.

On foreign policy, the information minister said that President Mubarak discussed the close link between foreign policy and national domestic issues. He noted that the interests and concerns of the entire world are intertwined today, leaving no room for isolation or withdrawal.

The president said: As we see world presidents and leaders seeking to serve the political and economic interests of their countries, it is necessary for us to move and open up to the international arena; everybody is seeking to open new markets for his country and boost its economy.

The information minister said President Mubarak answered questions posed by the men of the judiciary. On relations with the United States and whether they are going through a crisis, President Mubarak said: There is no crisis between Egypt and the United States. If a limited number of American newspapers touched on this matter and tried to fabricate stories from their own imagination, we know those whose interests are in promoting these stories. The press in Egypt, with its freedoms, reacted to those pens. But the entire issue is removed from both the American and Egyptian Administrations. The president stressed that relations between the two countries are normal and ordinary.

The president discussed the claims mentioned in those articles concerning the relationship with Libya. He explained that Egypt adopts a clear and declared position. It has sought to solve the crisis since it erupted. This position, he said, proceeds from Egypt's Arab role. Libya is a fraternal and neighboring Arab country. In our efforts, he added, we have not relinquished our Arab responsibility or violated our international obligations.

Asked about the trends in Egyptian policy toward Syria and Iran, President Mubarak replied that the relations between Egypt and Syria are historical and close, with complete understanding of all the facts and dimensions. These relations, he said, are governed by firm values and principles. "We waged the battles of war, and we support the achievement of a just peace," he said.

As regards Iran, the president added, it is an Islamic country, and our policy is to establish good relations with

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

all countries. He pointed out that the two countries are holding economic talks to settle old debts that amount to some 360 million Egyptian pounds.

President Mubarak affirmed: Our relations are clear, our resolutions are nationalistic and independent, and the attempts to strike below the belt will be futile.

Touching on the Islamic summit, the president said he will attend it and expressed his hope that the Islamic countries of the world will be able to confront and solve their disputes.

Replying to a question on the political and economic goals of Egypt's move to join the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU], President Mubarak said Egypt's move to join the Union has been completely welcomed by Morocco, Libya, and Algeria. He added that Egypt has accepted an invitation to attend the AMU meeting as an observer and that Egypt will maintain its status in the union as an observer only.

He explained that, by joining the union, Egypt aims to achieve amity and harmony among the AMU member states and economic cooperation with the Maghreb countries. He noted that Egypt's participation as an observer does not represent an ambition or competition but cooperation and integration.

Responding to a question on the situation in Bosnia, the president discussed the deteriorating situation there, the lassitude of the countries of the world, and the attempt to bring things to a head. He also discussed the European stance, which was supposed to be more decisive and positive.

In regard to Somalia, the president explained the situation among the rival Somali parties, the developments and foreign intervention there, and the efforts Egypt has made to bring about reconciliation among the Somali factions. He expressed the wish that the future will hold a glimmer of hope for stability in Somalia.

Commenting on the relations between Egypt and Sudan, President Mubarak said there are some who are trying to create a fight or confrontation with Egypt and that the attempts to cause a rift are being repeated. However, he added, we will use patience and silence despite abuses or slander against us, but we appreciate the Sudanese people's rejection of this approach, which is not compatible with basic values.

The president cited Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's attempts to halt the propaganda campaigns between the two countries. Despite the Sudanese president's announcement and Egypt's agreement to halt the campaigns, he said, this was not respected by those who have an interest in the continuation of differences and rifts and who did not adhere to the Sudanese president's decision and fabricated an incident on the borders to frustrate the colonel's attempt.

The president said: We are preserving our relations with the Sudanese people, we are concerned about dangers facing Sudan, and we are patient despite the excesses so that the relationship between the two nations will not be harmed and will stay far away from oneupmanship and be an enduring relationship.

Asked about the position on Iraq, President Mubarak said Egypt clearly supports Iraq's independence and territorial integrity and the search for a solution to help and assist the Iraqi people. He pointed out that Egypt extended a helping hand to Iraq and provided it with arms to defend its territory when its military situation in its war against Iran deteriorated.

He said Egypt did not respond to Iraq's request for assault weapons to attack deep into Iran.

The president said: I traveled to Iraq when it faced a difficult situation in al-Faw [near the border with Iran], and I visited Iraq when Baghdad was being hit by Iranian missiles. At that time, the Iraqi president admitted the mistake made by the Baghdad [Arab] summit when it decided to isolate Egypt. President Mubarak said he mentioned this to prove that Egypt's position is principled.

The president pointed out that Egypt did not seek to join the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] at the time and that it was the ACC countries that worked hard to include Egypt. They were mistaken twice, the president said—when they thought they could isolate Egypt during the Baghdad conference and when they imagined they could contain Egypt through the ACC.

The information minister said President Mubarak told the men of the judiciary that he will meet Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih tomorrow, Sunday, and that the visit was decided in a telephone conversation yesterday.

The president explained in detail what happened at the Arab summits; the contacts held before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait; his meeting with the Iraqi president, the amir of Kuwait, and King Fahd, the custodian of the two holy mosques; and his call for an Arab summit in Cairo.

The president stressed that Egypt never abandoned its principles, rejected all temptations, and took the side of justice. It rejected the occupation of an Arab country and at the same time helped Iraq during hard times in its war against Iran. Egypt also rejected attempts to intervene to overthrow the Iraqi president, because this conflicts with principles in which Egypt believes. The president pointed out efforts to find a solution to help the Iraqi people—who are victims of their leaders' miscalculations—out of their crisis.

At the end of the meeting, President Mubarak expressed respect and appreciation for the men of the judiciary.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Mubarak, Delegation Leave for Casablanca Summit

NC1212094494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Cairo for Casablanca this morning to lead Egypt's delegation to the 7th Islamic summit meeting due to open in Casablanca tomorrow.

Egypt's delegation to the summit is made up of Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, head of the President's Office, and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Summit Urged To Address West's 'Double Standards'

NC1212065294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA)—AL-AHRAM stresses that the sense of injustice felt by the Islamic peoples is the result of the big countries' policy of double standards and their clear discrimination when it comes to applying international laws.

In its editorial in its 12 December issue, the paper terms as "faulty and extremely narrow" the persistence of Western political circles and research centers in attributing Islamic terrorism to economic deprivation and shortage or lack of democracy.

If the big Western powers, from Russia to America, really feel the danger of what they call Islamic extremism and wish to combat it, the way to do it—providing good intentions are there—is clear and easy: Make Muslims feel that international legitimacy protects their rights and defends their just causes.

If this is done, the paper says, the Muslims—governments, peoples, and organizations—will enter the framework of legitimacy and will not rebel against it. If discrimination against Muslims' rights continues, as is happening in Bosnia, then this means Muslims are being forcefully distanced from international legitimacy.

AL-AHRAM stresses that the Islamic summit in Casablanca provides ample proof that the Muslim leaders are eager to remain under the umbrella of international legitimacy.

The paper urges the conference to focus on practical issues that affect current situations.

Musa Marks World Human Rights Day

NC1012215194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that the deteriorating situation in Bosnia is the result of the absence of a serious international move to deal with the grave violations of human rights and international law that the Bosnian people are still suffering from.

This came in Musa's address tonight to a ceremony marking international human rights day. In regard to the Middle East, the foreign minister said, despite the efforts made to help the Palestinian people enjoy their basic rights, there are grave concerns about hesitant stands due to a relative relaxation in the world's will that we must be aware of so that the Palestinian people's aspirations will be fulfilled and their suffering stopped.

AL-AKHBAR Laments UN Weakness in Bosnia

NC0912071194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Dec (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR writes that there is a general consensus that the United Nations is not the organization the world agreed to establish in October 1945, in the wake of World War II.

In an editorial today, AL-AKHBAR says that the United Nations has become so incapable of proving itself and shouldering its duty that it quivers in fear of the tyrant Serb minority in Bosnia-Herzegovina. A few years ago, no one could have defied the major world organization or criticize its ability or that of its Security Council in the manner the Serbs are today and go unpunished, the paper says.

The newspaper remarks that the situation is upside down on the world stage as far as the Bosnian tragedy is concerned. It is no longer the United Nations that warns aggressors in the world; it is the rebel Serbian gangs in the independent states of Bosnia who now threaten the international organization that includes over 180 states.

The editorial affirms that important secrets must underlie the regrettable weakness that came over the international organization. These secrets will not remain concealed from the world for long; they will be divulged in due time, the paper says.

Reportage on Yemeni President Salih's Visit

Arrives in Cairo

NC1112104294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1012 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih arrived in Cairo today. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received him at the airport.

Meets With Mubarak

NC1112111794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1053 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a private

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

session of talks at noon today with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who arrived in Cairo earlier today.

The talks revolved around the Middle East peace process, new Arab developments, and ways of boosting bilateral ties.

The Yemeni president was accorded an official reception on his arrival at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis. [passage omitted]

Concludes Official Talks

NC1112214194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Official talks between President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih concluded at the Presidential Office this evening. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that in this evening's session, which lasted for about one hour, the two presidents discussed all subjects on the table of the Islamic summit [in Casablanca]. They also discussed the Higher Egyptian-Yemeni Joint Committee with a view to reactivating it. The committee's latest meeting was held last December. The two presidents also discussed some joint projects that can be restudied and implemented. [passage omitted]

Leaves Cairo for Casablanca

NC1212085694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his delegation left Cairo for Casablanca this morning to attend the Islamic summit due to open tomorrow, Tuesday.

During his two-day stay in Egypt, the Yemeni president held talks with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on boosting bilateral relations, developments in the Arab arena, the latest developments in the Middle East peace process, inter-Arab relations, and the Islamic summit agenda.

He was seen off at Cairo International Airport by President Husni Mubarak, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Minister of Local Administration Dr. Mahmud al-Sharif, Education Minister Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din, Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, Yemeni Ambassador in Cairo Ahmad Luqman, and members of the Yemeni Embassy.

Information Minister on Mubarak, Salih Meeting

NC1112125794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that Presidents Husni Mubarak and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih held a 90-minute closed meeting immediately after the Yemeni president's arrival today.

He added that the Yemeni president's visit to Cairo falls within the context of consultations between the two presidents on the issues that concern both countries, as well as coordination at the Arab and international levels.

The visit also seeks to develop a common Arab vision on how to deal with Arab and international changes and treat Arab disputes within the Arab household through consultations that preserve Arab interests.

Minister al-Sharif pointed out that the two delegations held a meeting on the sidelines of the summit. The Egyptian delegation included Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Transport Minister Sulayman Mutawalli, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, and Local Government Minister Mahmud Sharif.

The Yemeni delegation included Deputy Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al- Wahhab al-Anasi; Transport Minister Ahmad Musa'id Husayn; President Salih's Political Adviser Dr. Hasan Makki; Secretary General of the Presidential Office Brigadier General 'Abdallah al-Bashiri; and Yemeni Ambassador Ahmad Luqman.

The information minister added that this meeting discussed bilateral ties in the various economic, political, media, and cultural fields. Views were exchanged on prospects of future cooperation.

The information minister said that the two presidents will hold talks this evening to resume their discussion of the issues requiring Arab coordination, particularly the Islamic issues on the agenda of the Islamic Conference Organization summit that will open in Casablanca on Tuesday.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses 'Masses' in Suq al-Jum'ah

LD0812224394

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 1942 GMT on 8 December broadcasts an approximately 80-minute program on a meeting between Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the "masses" of Suq al- Jum'ah. Reception is good. The date of the meeting is not given.

The program begins with a statement by the "revolutionary leadership" on economic development in the area, and this is followed by presentation of the "shield of loyalty" to al-Qadhdhafi. The revolutionary leadership presents the Libyan leader with a gift, namely the deeds for 16,000 square meters of land in the Suq al-Jum'ah area for his family. This is followed by poetry in praise of al-Qadhdhafi.

At 2017 GMT the Libyan leader begins to deliver a 46-minute speech without notes. Al-Qadhdhafi starts by thanking the leadership for the shield and the piece of land. I have the honor to be a citizen of Suq al-Jum'ah,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

he notes. He adds that this meeting is to evaluate the work of the revolutionary leaderships here like other meetings elsewhere. One must be sure they carry out their duty before they make a start on the next step. We must ensure that the leadership has a headquarters, he goes on, and there should regional experts who chart out what is needed for its development. Experts have talked about general ideas that benefit the country as a whole, but not about specific areas. He says the revolutionary program should apply to each area. They must plan methods of action not only here but generally. One must pause at Suq al-Jum'ah to review its plans, he says, and see if they may help other areas which can learn from its mistakes. He says there should be a plan that applies to Suq al-Jum'ah showing what is to be done in industry, fishing, navigation, farming etc. The experts in the area are the ones who should know how to exploit the potentials of the area in question and how to start training cadres, for example in the fishing trade. The same thing applies to agriculture, he adds, stressing the need to establish an advanced agriculture. Noting that the land adjacent to the sea is likely to suffer from sea-water filtering into it underground, he says this problem was tackled in America. This is a task for the experts here to start and guide the local people's committee. There is also the issue of granting agricultural loans; this must be used as an agricultural loan and nothing else. There is the question of ID cards, passports, vehicle number plates, and also licences for carrying out economic activity.

Al-Qadhdhafi adds that there is also the question of a piece of land that remains unexploited. He asks why and who is responsible? There is a committee that looks into this. The popular committee in a locality is the one that defines the economic activity and how the loans are allocated. He goes on to say that imports of goods from abroad may not be necessary—so why import them? Local products may be a substitute. Cosmetics for example. Why sell raw wool in return for importing soft drinks. Import licences must not be given haphazardly. Chinawear and kitchen utensils can be made locally from local clay if a factory is built to make it. Prices of goods should be defined and universal, he continues, and over-pricing must be stopped, and this should also apply to making high profits. The popular committees were created to run the affairs of the people properly, he notes. The high cost of living, unemployment, and foreign manpower, crime are all issues that face us today. When the Somalis began to quarrel among themselves foreign forces came to interfere in their affairs. We must not let this happen here, he stresses. Outside political parties compete among themselves to dominate the government. He cites crime in the United States as an example of a country run by political parties and not by the people. We must not copy their experiences in this field, he contends. The best thing is the jamahiri system and the true popular authority that allow the Libyan people to be the masters. The steps you have taken in the recent period are very encouraging, he adds. It is very reassuring that the popular leadership has been so successful in such a short period, he asserts. This is what makes one have confidence in this program.

Al-Qadhdhafi then turns to the use of Libya's income from oil, stressing that oil wealth is not everlasting and should be used wisely. When the oil dries up there must be something else to replace it. Therefore, plans should be drawn up so that oil revenues can be wisely exploited. To exploit the oil wealth must be in accordance with a reasonable plan. Overspending is not advised, he stresses, warning that this will lead to a loss of credibility. We must be precise in our plans, he goes on, and must not kid ourselves by giving misleading figures. We must be straight with ourselves, he stresses.

He adds: I am pleased to see a popular leadership in Suq al- Jum'ah that is worthy of leadership. He stresses that Libyans must not find themselves slipping into a dictatorship. We must look after our popular and jamahiri system, he concludes.

Tripoli Seeks Iranian Assistance in Agriculture

LD0812220794 Tehran IRNA in English 1621 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA—Libya's agriculture minister, 'Isa 'Abd-al-Kafi al-Sid, in Tripoli Thursday [8 December] called on Tehran to assist Tripoli in preventing sand encroachment, improving irrigation, pastures and utilization of modern systems for optimal use of land. 'Abd-al-Kafi made the request in a meeting with Iran's ambassador in Libya Mohammad Reza Nuri Shahrudi.

He said that Tripoli will welcome continuation, promotion and deepening of Tehran-Tripoli cooperation in all areas, agriculture in particular. Shahrudi stressed that in a bid to gain independence, the Islamic countries need to establish proper cooperation among themselves, especially in agriculture sector.

The Iranian diplomat submitted a written invitation to 'Abd-al-Kafi, from his Iranian counterpart 'Isa Kalantari, to attend Islamic countries' agriculture ministers session which is to be held in Tehran.

Iranian Labor Minister Continues Talks in Tripoli

LD0812213394 Tehran IRNA in English 2053 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA—The Iranian Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Hoseyn Kamali now in Tripoli on the occasion of the sixth Iran-Libya joint commission on Wednesday [7 December] conferred with the Libyan minister of transportation and communications 'Izz-al-Din al-Hinshiri.

The Libyan minister said the sixth commission now in progress in Tripoli is a token of the solid relations between the two countries. Relations between the two

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

countries and expressed hope that the Muslim nations would close their ranks in a united struggle for progress. [as received]

JANA on Dangers of Israel's 1st Satellite

LD0412210294 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli enemy intends to sell the services of the first Israeli satellite for communications, which will be launched into space at the end of November of next year, to some Arab countries.

The international Mediterranean Radio said that this satellite will cover an area of 750,000 square kilometers, which would encompass most of the Arab territory.

The JANA Arab affairs editor commented on this Israeli project by saying:

We warn the Arabs of the dangers of this issue that will lead to the Israeli enemy's complete domination over telephone and telegraph communications and radio and agencies' transmissions.

The editor added that the danger of this project would be represented by the Israeli enemy's exploitation of this project in military and security spying, and eavesdropping operations that would guarantee for the Israelis the potential for monitoring all security and military movements in all the Arab countries.

The editor pointed out that when we warned the Arabs of this project, we did so because this project represented a violation of Arab sovereignty in the communications sphere. It would put the Arabs under the Israeli enemy's mercy in the communications sphere, including personal telephone contacts. The matter would amount to asking for a permission from Tal al-Rabi' to make any contact between the Arab countries.

JANA Editor Comments on 'Arafat's Peace Prize

LD1112141894 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yesterday in Oslo, 'Arafat, the two terrorists Rabin and Peres shared what is called the Nobel Peace Prize for 'Arafat's recognition of the Israeli enemy and for signing with these two terrorists the document of surrender to the enemy.

The JANA Arab affairs editor comments on this:

It appears that the Nobel Peace Prize is nowadays given to those who recognize the Israeli enemy and who work for entrenching his occupation of Arab soil—a matter that has turned this prize into service for the Israelis and conferring legitimacy on this usurping entity, and for the occupation of Arab territory and for persisting in the policy of wholesale extermination of the Palestinian Arab people.

The editor continued: It has been noticed that the for some years now this prize is divided into two or three parts; that is to accommodate the sides who signed the documents of surrender and capitulation. Thus, the enemies of the Arab nation, and also those who surrender to them, are showered with prizes in the name of peace at a time when the Palestinian Arab people—the owners of the land are enduring the hell of the Israeli occupation and its sons are subjected to more killing and homelessness as a price.

The JANA Arab affairs editor concluded: Has the Israeli occupation of Palestine come to an end and the occupiers returned to where they came from, and the homeless Palestinian people returned to their land to justify giving these peace prizes? [passage omitted]

Report Says U.S. on 'Campaign' Against Egypt

LD1012092794 Tripoli JANA in English 0844 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, al-Kanun [December] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Within the pattern of attempts to Balkanize the Arab homeland the American media is launching a vicious campaign, using misleading propaganda against sisterly Egypt. The American press described the Christian Copts in Egypt as an oppressed minority. This is a clear indication for an attempt to fragment the Arab homeland, particularly sisterly Egypt, due to its civilizational and influential role in the area.

Through such allegations it is now obvious that Egypt's fragmentation has become an item in the American agenda.

It is worth mentioning that American media was involved for some time in a vicious and misleading campaign against Egypt and against President Mubarak personally, to the extent that Egyptian press considered this as open and exposed intervention in the domestic affairs of Egypt.

Reportage on Cuban Foreign Minister's Visit

Gonzalez Meets al-Muntasir

LD1012204094 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The secretary of foreign liaison and international cooperation this evening had a meeting with Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez.

The Cuban foreign minister reaffirmed Cuba's solidarity and support for the Great Jamahiriyah in facing the unjust measures imposed by the so-called United Nations. He pointed out that Cuba and the Great Jamahiriyah were facing imperialist schemes attempting to undermine their sovereignty.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Cooperation between the two friendly countries and ways of bolstering and developing it, international issues of mutual concern, coordination in supporting the Non-Aligned Movement and providing it with impetus to confront colonialist schemes were discussed during the meeting which was attended by the Cuban ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah and the secretary of people's bureau in Havana.

The Cuban foreign minister arrived this afternoon on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. He was welcomed by the secretary of foreign liaison and international cooperation. [passage omitted]

Delivers Castro Message

LD1112201594 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] has received Cuban Foreign Affairs Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez.

The Cuban foreign affairs minister conveyed a message from President Castro to the brother leader of the revolution, in which he renewed Cuba's standing and solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah in confronting the unjust measures imposed on it and stressed the role of the Great Jamahiriyah and Cuba in confronting the imperialist interventions and expansions in the Caribbean Sea region and U.S. attempts to control peoples' destinies.

Leaves Tripoli

LD1212114294 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1055 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 12 Dec—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Gonzalez left Tripoli this morning after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Mr. Gonzalez made a statement to JANA on his departure from Tripoli in which he praised the results of his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah and he underlined that his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah had been within the framework of bilateral relations and the development of these relations in various fields in the interest of the two friendly peoples and countries.

Morocco

King Hassan Receives Saudi Foreign Minister

LD1012192894 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Gracious Majesty King Hassan II received His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Saudi Arabian kingdom, at the Royal Residence at Bouznika this afternoon. Present at the meeting were HRH Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and HRH Prince Moulay Rachid.

His Majesty the king and the the Saudi foreign minister had talks attended by Mr. Abdellatif Filali, prime minister and foreign affairs and cooperation minister.

'Militants' Consider Unified Opposition Party

LD0812144394 Rabat MAP in English 1342 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Dec. 8 (MAP)—An important group of 'democratic militants' met this December 3-4 in Rabat to examine preparations for the creation of a new political party, reported Wednesday [7 December] Moroccan ANOUAL daily.

According to the daily of the Organization for Democratic and Popular Action (OADP/opposition), democratic militants from various Moroccan regions met to examine their political action and participation in the country's political life. Quoting sources close to the group, the daily said the creation of the party might be announced before next spring.

Various extreme-leftist trends have been for years discussing their unification within one party and they have published several papers such as AL-MOUWATINA and AL-OUFOUK, both ceased, and AL-YASSAR ADDIMOUKRATI which is still on the newsstands.

The group is composed of former leftist militants and active members of political parties, most of them are former political detainees.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kuwait

Ministry Denies Arab Mediation on Iraq Issue

LD1012181794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1648 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 10 Dec (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin denied today the existence of any Arab mediation between the State of Kuwait and Iraq and stressed: "We as Arabs like rhetoric at the expense of facts. We say that reconciliation before frankness and other things is not realistic."

In reply to journalists' questions at the National Assembly today, after his meeting with the fact-finding commission on the unjust Iraqi invasion, al-Shahin pointed out that there were facts that must be adopted, resolutions that must be implemented, and stances that must be declared. In the light of these, the situation could return to normal. [passage omitted]

Information Minister: Confidence in Iraq Lacking

LD1112225794 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah stressed again that confidence in the Iraqi regime was lacking. He said that the Iraqi regime would implement all of the UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to the Gulf war sooner or later, and that Kuwait was sympathetic to the Iraqi people, who had been and were still suffering from the tyranny of the regime.

During a meeting with the official responsible for Syrian media establishments, Shaykh Sa'ud said that the State of Kuwait would not have dealings with the Iraqi regime even if it implemented all of the UN Security Council resolutions.

Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah pointed out that the UN Security Council's permanent members were set on forcing the Iraqi regime to implement all of the UN resolutions.

Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah praised the Syrian Arab Republic under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, its honorable stances regarding the State of Kuwait, and its role in defending the Arab nation's issues and establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Foreign Minister Receives Invitation to Moscow

LD1112180694 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 11 Dec 94 (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received a letter today from Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, which contained an invitation to visit Moscow.

In a statement to KUNA, an authoritative source at the Foreign Ministry said that Russian Ambassador to Kuwait Petr Stegniya delivered the letter to Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, when he met him here.

The source said that al-Shahin and Stegniya discussed bilateral relations and the Russian stance at the upcoming meeting of the UN Security Council.

Al-Shahin also received French Ambassador to Kuwait Charles Henri Daragon. The source said that the bilateral relations and the latest developments in the region were discussed during the meeting. [passage omitted]

Delay in Signing GCC Agreement Explained

LD0912194194 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah, in response to a KUNA question on recent foreign media reports on Kuwait refusing to sign the security agreement concluded between the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, denied the reports. He stressed the importance of the agreement, its aims and goals, and its role in bolstering the existing security cooperation between the GCC states. He said the agreement will help these states achieve their common interests, proceeding from the firm commitment of the State of Kuwait to the common destiny of the GCC states—a common destiny embodied in the strong stance taken by these states in the face of the Iraqi regime's outrageous aggression against, and its repeated threats to the State of Kuwait.

The interior minister also stressed Kuwait's commitment to the security agreement and its eagerness to implement its clauses and achieve its goals. He said that only one clause needs further study before signing the agreement, which it is hoped will take place in the nearest future.

Decree Issued on Dissolution of Municipal Council

LD1112184094 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Dec 94

[Decree No. 252, dated 1994, on the dissolution of the Municipal Council issued at the Bayan Palace on 11 December]

[FBIS Translated Text] After taking cognizance of the Constitution and of Law No. 15 of 1972 concerning the Municipality of Kuwait and other laws amending it, Law No. 2 of 1993 reinstating some of the provisions of the Kuwait Municipality, Decree No. 176 of 1993 calling on the voters to elect members of the Municipal Council, and Decree No. 215 of 1993 appointing members of the Municipal Council, and in view of the irregularity in the work of the Municipal Council and the absence of cooperation and harmony among members of the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Municipal Council—a matter that hindered the execution of its work, thus affecting the interests of the citizens and the services provided by the municipal amenities—has made it necessary to dissolve this Council in realization of the public interest.

On the basis of the proposition submitted by the minister of state for cabinet affairs and after the approval of the Council of Ministers, we have decreed the following:

Article 1: The Municipal Council is dissolved as of the date of the issuance of this decree.

Article 2: The ministers, each within their own jurisdiction, shall implement this decree, and this decree shall be published in the official gazette.

[Signed] Amir of Kuwait Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah

Prime Minister Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al-Salim al-Sabah

'Abd-al-'Aziz Dakhil al-Dakhil, minister of state for cabinet affairs

Issued at Bayan Palace on 8 Rajab 1415 AH, corresponding to 11 December 1994.

Saudi Arabia

Finance Minister Lauds Outcome of GCC Session

LD0812150394 Riyadh SPA in English 1233 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Dec 8, SPA—The Minister of Finance and National Economy Muhammed Aba-al-Khayl has lauded the outcome of the recent meeting of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] committee for financial and economic cooperation which was concluded here on Wednesday [7 December] and said during the 37th session, the ministers reviewed matters to be raised during the GCC summit conference to be held in Manama this month.

On trade arena, Aba-al-Khayl said, the ministers approved new regulations whereby the GCC citizens would be allowed to practice wholesale trade in member countries beside the practising of the retail activities approved previously. He termed the achievement as a positive step towards a better common market.

Referring to cooperation on stock activities, Aba-al-Khayl said new and better rules were introduced for adoption if they were passed by all GCC member countries.

The ministers also discussed minutes presented by the technical committees on commodity assortment to pave way for unification of customs tariffs and charges, he said and added that the committee which applies the most advanced international standards, has completed so far assortment of 41 percent of commodities and six months were set as a deadline for completion of the work after which steps could be made towards the unification of customs tariffs.

Minister Aba-al-Khayl said the committee also reviewed recommendations made by the meetings of the customs and statistics general directors and proper resolutions were made accordingly.

The ministers reviewed an electricity grid linking between the GCC states which was discussed by the ministers of electricity and proposed a joint meeting between undersecretaries of the finance and electricity ministries to finalise technical and financial matters concerning the project before returning the outcome to the committee of financial and economic cooperation for further study.

Answering questions on proposals for setting up a common Arab market, the Saudi minister of finance and national economy said the Arab countries agreed several years ago on facilities for trade exchange but the agreement was not implemented and he expressed hope the Arab countries could accelerate the implementation of the agreement.

Aba-al-Khayl said matters pertaining to ownership of real estate and trading of foreign goods without the accord of the agent, Aba-al-Khayl said debate was not finalized so far on these matters.

Reacting on reports carried by some foreign agencies on the situation of the Saudi riyal, Aba-al-Khayl said the Saudi riyal remains strong and those who cast doubts on the performance of the Saudi currency have done so for non-economic and non-financial motivations.

For his part, the Bahraini minister of finance and national economy Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Karim expressed hope that the matters of unification of customs tariff would be finalized before the end of 1995 in view of the remarkable progress made on the matter.

Yemen

Salih, King Fahd To Solve Problems Through Dialogue

JN0912202594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic of Yemen, and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia held a conversation by telephone this evening.

They tackled issues of interest to relations between the two fraternal and agreed to contain everything that may harm the brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries and to solve any problem through a brotherly dialogue in order to bolster security, stability, and peace in the region.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Russian Envoy Views Policy, National Security

JN1112184894 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 7 Dec 94 pp 8-11

[Interview with Russian Ambassador Nikolay Vasilyevich Kartuzov by Husayn Fawzi in Baghdad; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Fawzi] Is there a Russian move to develop a "European mainland" stand different from the Anglo-U.S. stand on the Iraqi file?

[Kartuzov] The Russian stand is based on the precise content of the UN Security Council resolutions. Therefore, in our discussions with our colleagues from European, Asian, and Middle Eastern nations, we reiterate our stand and point of view calling for implementing the content of the resolutions. I do not believe there is a Russian orientation to develop what you have referred to. However, Russia is continuing efforts in the direction of a literal implementation of the resolutions rather than interpreting them away from their contents. [passage omitted]

[Fawzi] Some news media, especially the Western ones, have tried to display the Russian initiative toward Iraq as being confined to Russian debt, as if the issue is one of looking for a way to have that debt repaid.

[Kartuzov] It is well known that any step on the international arena is followed by attempts to interpret it. Some of those interpretations could be absolutely nonobjective and tend to ignore many facts. I do not want to go into the biased interpretations of Russian policy. I would like to leave them to be judged by the consciences of those who allow themselves to adopt such miserable interpretations. I would like to say most frankly that the Russian initiative was not motivated by a naive material interest or a desire to settle debts. We do not deny that we have interests in Iraq. But the basis of the Russian initiative is Russia's sense of responsibility as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, and particularly in view of the fact that this region is very close to the Russian border. Therefore, we cannot ignore the effects of any military concentrations or serious military operations on our security and domestic situation. This is the reason behind the Russian initiative, which stems from national Russian security and Russia's responsibility in the international community. It should be noted that no Iraqi-Russian talks in Russia and Iraq, especially with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, dealt with the debt issue in any way whatsoever. This issue is not among my country's priorities. Here I would like to point out that all the Iraqi officials' talks with Russian officials definitely did not touch on the debt issue, because relations of friendship are more important.

[Fawzi] The activity of the Russian navy in this region is no longer as it was in the days of the Soviet Union. Does not this constitute a defect in the guarantees of Russian national security?

[Kartuzov] Russian warships are in the [Indian] Ocean and areas close to the Gulf. Sometimes they sail in the Gulf. Ships are movable. But I do not want to conceal the domestic Russian situation. The economic situation does not give us the same chances that existed in the past. But I want to note here that the Russian naval existence during the Cold War had reasons and objectives related to chasing the other party. Now, in the post-Cold War era, the Russian military presence has other objectives. In the past, the two blocs used to move toward the same direction.

[Fawzi] But it is evident to you that through their naval military presence, they always brandish the big stick. You have already noted this. This is contrary to the hope which existed after the end of the Cold War.

[Kartuzov] Our objective is to avert the use of military force through peaceful means.

[Fawzi] Without military support for peaceful initiatives?

[Kartuzov] Yes, without the need for direct military presence. We are convinced that military means do not resolve crises, as was shown in Somalia, Yugoslavia, Haiti, or other hot areas.

[Fawzi] After your active diplomatic move, what do you expect for your country's relations with the region?

[Kartuzov] Before anything else, I hope that there will be a sound vision of Russia's new orientations toward the region. Our mission, as we have defined it and want it to be, is for Russia to contribute toward promoting stability and peace and toward providing a chance for peoples of the region to concentrate on building, improving the standard of living, and resolving social problems. Our approach toward Arab countries and other Middle Eastern parties is a balanced policy. Still, we realize that our relations cannot be equal with all states. Russia does not have the same level of relations with all parties, for this also depends on the other party. The most important thing is that we seek fruitful and friendly relations with all states. Regarding Iraq, we testify that our aspirations for friendship and cooperation are supported by the Iraqi leadership. Therefore, we believe in the need for the existence of a large scope for bilateral relations. Our objective is to resolve the hot problems concerning Iraq and, in a later stage, to restore the volume of bilateral cooperation to its previous level. Iraqi, Russia, and international circumstances permitting, we wish that those relations will be broader than they used to be. [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz Returns From Moscow Visit

JN1012120494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has returned to Baghdad from Moscow at the conclusion of a visit to the Russian Federation lasting several days.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

During the visit, 'Aziz held thorough talks with Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev on the embargo imposed on Iraq and the need for the UN Security Council to lift that embargo now that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations.

Tariq 'Aziz also delivered a message from Leader President Saddam Husayn to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

RCC Meets, Discusses 'Aziz's Moscow Visit

JN1112122894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has chaired a meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]. The RCC reviewed the results of the visit to Moscow by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and discussed a number of political topics.

The meeting was attended by Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly, and Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, director of the presidential office.

Joint Committee With Sudan Concludes Meetings

JN1012205194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At the conclusion of the meetings of the 10th session of the joint Iraqi-Sudanese committee, joint minutes were signed. The minutes were signed for the Iraqi side by Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir, while 'Abdallah Hasan Ahmad, Sudanese minister finance and economic planning, signed them for the Sudanese side.

The signing ceremony was attended by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and Sudanese Minister of State Nasr-al-Din 'Umar. In a speech, Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir, head of the Iraqi side at the committee, referred to the progress witnessed by the Iraqi-Sudanese in all fields. He hoped that meetings will continue in order to bolster relations between the two sisterly countries.

Paper: U.S. Policy Threatens Self-Interest

JN0912153594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 Nov 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column by Sabri Hammadi: "Where Is U.S. Intransigence Leading?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Now that Iraq has recognized Kuwait and implemented the UN Security Council Resolutions, which are really American in origin and purpose, the U.S. Administration stands completely unencumbered by any cover or excuse to justify its intransigent stand in the Security Council on the question of lifting the unjust and inhuman embargo imposed on the Iraqi people for five years.

The Clinton administration openly expresses its anger and annoyance at Iraqi reconstruction, which is growing and continuing despite the embargo. It instructs its Dutch crow, van der Stoel, to resume his croaking lies about Iraqi human rights. Albright boasts with impetuosity and arrogance that she will remain a viper spitting venom at everything Iraqi. All this unreasonable and unwarranted behavior can only mean one thing: The U.S. Administration faces isolation in the international community and the Security Council.

It is no secret that the U.S. Administration has gambled and acted on the assumption that its savage aggression on Iraq and the unfair embargo on its people would achieve its wishes and aims—destroying Iraq, breaking it up, and changing its national regime within a period not exceeding six months. It gave this impression to its allies and agents. However, Iraq's steadfastness, firmness, and adherence to its leadership and principles throughout the last four years have dispelled the U.S. dream and proved the futility and fragility of the U.S. gamble to destroy Iraq and change its regime. This explains the change in the international attitude toward Iraq and the growing isolation of the United States. The subservient and vacillating British stand is insignificant.

It is now clearly understood that the U.S. Administration stands alone against treating Iraq fairly and lifting the embargo under Clause (22) of Resolution 687. Clearly, this U.S. stand stems from known biased political motives that have nothing to do with the UN Security Council Resolutions. No doubt, the continued sincere and concerted international efforts to implement Clause (22) of Resolution 687 will eventually force the U.S. Administration to reconsider its intransigent stand, which has been isolated by the will of the international community, with all the political and economic losses resulting from such intransigence and isolation in the foreseeable future.

Thus, it can be said that the U.S. Administration is now faces two choices: Either act in harmony and agreement with existing international unanimity on treating Iraq fairly and lifting the embargo on its patient, struggler people, with all that this harmony and agreement means in terms of guaranteeing legitimate U.S. interests, or increase its isolation by moving away from its closest allies and friends, with all that this isolation entails in terms of economic loss, damage, and wasted opportunities for political and commercial dealing with Iraq.

B'ath Party Official in al-Basrah Said Killed

NC1012163194 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports from al-Basrah, Laftah 'Uwayyid, the secretary of the Ba'th Party branch in al-Basrah was killed. Gunmen kidnapped the party official in the center of the city even though he was accompanied by guards. His body was found on the al-'Amarah road a few days later. The incident caused

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

panic among the Iraqi officials in the al-Basrah governorate. Security measures have been tightened around the homes of the governor, the security director, and Ba'th Party officials in the city.

Prayer Leaders Said Killed for Voicing Opposition

NC1012162594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from Baghdad have confirmed that Shaykh Mahmud, prayer leader of the (Al-Falujah) Mosque in the al-Jam'iah quarter in Baghdad, was assassinated in front of his home in the al-Hurriyah quarter. A number of Iraqi regime executioners rushed him, firing a hail of bullets at him as he (?was leaving) his home. Shaykh Mahmud publicly criticized the Iraqi regime in his latest Friday sermon. In that sermon he said: May God save us from those who caused the fragmentation of the Iraqi people, the oppression befalling the Iraqis, and who were behind the division of Iraq into longitudes and latitudes.

According to the same reports, the prayer leader of the al-Kabisi mosque met the same fate and for the same reasons.

Opposition Groups Warned of Possible Saddam 'Plants'

MM1212093894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Dec 94 p6

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH—An Iraqi opposition group has attacked Staff Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, who recently fled from Baghdad to northern Iraq and announced that he was joining the Iraqi National Congress [INC], and implied that he might have been sent by the Iraqi regime.

Sa'd Salih Jabr, leader of the Free Iraqi Council (headquarters in London), has issued a statement, a copy of which was received by AL-HAYAH, "warning all our brothers in the Iraqi opposition against people planted by Saddam in opposition ranks through special offices formed recently for that purpose with the aim of subverting or dividing the opposition from within." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, a delegation of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has returned to Tehran after spending 20 days in Iraqi Kurdistan where it met with Kurdish leaders Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani. The delegation included Shaykh Muhsin al-Husayni, 'Izz-al-Din Salim, and Shaykh Ibrahim Hammudi.

A statement issued by SAIRI, a copy of which was received by AL-HAYAH, said that the delegation held extensive talks covering "developments pertaining to the Iraqi issue and the plight of the Iraqi people, as well as ways of developing action for salvation from tyrant Saddam and his dictatorial terrorist regime, the situation in Kurdistan, and Iraq's political future. The emphasis during the meetings was on the need to reject conflict and division between members of the same people and to adhere to the bonds of Islamic fraternity, tolerance, respect for mutual rights, and cooperation among all forces to save Iraq and serve its people." [passage omitted]

It is worth noting that the INC has decided to form a committee to study "all political, legal, diplomatic, financial, monetary, and military aspects of the idea of forming a provisional government on homeland territory."

Major General Hasan al-Naqib, however, has expressed reservations about such a government. In a telephone statement to AL-HAYAH from his headquarters in Salah al-Din in northern Iraq, he said: "We do not need such a government. There is a Kurdish government in Kurdistan and there is the INC. Formation of a government would require several steps and international recognition would have to be guaranteed." He said the INC activities should be made more effective.

Opposition Calls For Concerted Push Against Saddam

MM0812163794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Dec 94 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] London—The Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC] has emphatically called for the "mobilization of resources to speed the downfall of the ruling regime, end the plight of the Iraqi people, and establish a state of law and democracy."

A statement issued at the conclusion of the joint meetings held by the UINC's Presidential Council and Executive Council in the period from 28 November through 4 December in Salah al-Din "appealed to all (Iraqi) military commands to shoulder their responsibilities and to act along with the UINC forces to end the Iraqi people's tribulations resulting from dictatorship, starvation, and injustice. It reaffirmed the UINC course and its declared support for a general amnesty, tolerance, and the revival of the rule of law and justice."

The UINC, an organization embodying the major Iraqi opposition factions, decided to form a committee to study the idea of forming "a provisional government on homeland territory" in all "political, legal, diplomatic, financial, and military aspects."

The conferees decided to summon their National Assembly to meet next April and to "begin to take the necessary practical steps for that." UINC sources have told AL-HAYAH that they expect the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], led by Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, to intensify its presence in Kurdistan and expect him to visit Kurdistan soon.

The conferees discussed "the stifling living conditions of the bulk of the population and held the (Iraqi) regime fully responsible because of its adventurous and irresponsible policy, which has led to the continuation of the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

economic sanctions, as well as its noncompliance with Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712." The UINC renewed its "call for for the dispatch of UN observers to prevent human rights violations and apply Resolution 949, which obliges the regime to facilitate UN operations in Iraq, especially those related to relief in the South." The UINC appealed to Iran "to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid" for the new and past refugees who are in the areas adjacent to its borders as a result of coercion and persecution in the southern marshes areas.

The conferees emphasized that "there should be no reward for the aggressor and despot." It added that "the international reaction to the recent threats to the security of fraternal Kuwait aimed at protecting its sovereignty and internationally recognized borders, but it went no further toward protecting the Iraqi people from the regime's persecution." The UINC welcomed the "American and British interpretation of Resolution 949, which warns the regime of the consequences of aggression in the South and North, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 7 on the basis of which the resolution was passed."

The UINC expressed concern about the pressures brought to bear on some states by their companies, especially oil companies, and the inclination of some to move toward concluding deals with Iraq. The statement warned that "the Iraqi people and their elected constitutional institutions will not honor any commercial agreements concluded by Saddam with foreign companies while the UN sanctions banning such deals were in force."

Official on Oil Production After Blockade Lifted

NC0912150294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1427 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Dec (MENA)—Iraqi Oil Minister Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad asserted that his country is ready to produce two million barrels of oil daily as soon as the international blockade imposed on Iraq is lifted.

In statements he made on arrival in Cairo today to attend the meetings of the OAPEC oil ministers which start in Cairo tomorrow, the Iraqi minister said that agreement has been reached with OPEC to hold an extraordinary meeting immediately after the lifting of the blockade to take measures that would prevent a sharp drop in oil prices as a result of the Iraqi oil's entry into world markets. Syrian Oil Minister Dr. Nadir al-Nabulsi also arrived in Cairo today to attend the OAPEC meetings.

'Bogus Firms' Siphoning Investment From Exchange

JN0912161394 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 27 Nov 94 p 4

[Article by Sadiq Jabr]

[FBIS Translated Text] Share trading in the Baghdad Stock Exchange Market has been affected recently by the activity of phony companies and investment bureaus.

AL-QADISIYAH, which has followed market activity, has observed a complete lull in share supply and demand, with deals rarely being concluded. Daily transactions have almost come to standstill now that many clients have withdrawn from the market to invest their money in these bogus firms.

Market activity has weakened steadily over the past several weeks. Transactions have not exceeded the 25 million dinar mark and share trading has dropped from 5 million to one million daily.

Prices have continued to drop for an entire month. For example, shares in the Iraqi Meat Production and Marketing Company sold at 65 dinars and 250 fils per share in August, and are now fetching only 40 dinars and 500 fils. Iraqi Agricultural Products Company shares have also dropped from 19 dinars and 450 fils to 14 dinars per share.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Rabin, Peres on Peace, 'Terror,' Palestinians

TA0912123394 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 9 Dec 94 pp 2, 3, 4, 5

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Shim'on Schiffer and Nahum Barne'a on 7 December "on the eve of their departure for Oslo to receive the Nobel Peace Prize"; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] When we called on him on Wednesday [7 December], Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin brandished all these figures. "We have found out that there are more Palestinians than we thought and that in the area west of the Jordan River there are today 4.3 million Jews and at least 3 million Palestinians, including Israel's Arabs. In the West Bank and Gaza Strip there are at least 2 million Palestinians, and this figure does not include East Jerusalem."

This disclosure somewhat attests to the quality of information in the hands of Israel's decisionmakers. Experts have been arguing for years about the size of the Arab population in the West Bank (the data for Gaza is more or less accurate). The Israeli Government has usually tended to embrace the lower figures for the sake of convenience, but now the figures have come back to haunt it.

Rabin knows what he does not want, but he is less clear about what he wants. "I do not want to create a binational state," he told us, "but I want that to happen in stages. I want most Arabs not to be part of Israel's territory in the permanent solution."

We put two and two together and asked him whether this means that he favors the evacuation of all the Jews from the territories or their concentration in blocs and supports a population exchange between them and the Arabs. Proposals along this line were raised by some cabinet ministers this week.

"I do not deal with population exchanges," Rabin said. Instead, he spoke in favor of separation. "The mixture between us and them creates ideal conditions for terror."

If so, does Rabin plan to invest money to pave bypass roads in a bid to separate the settlers and the Arabs? Not quite. "If you think that we are going to spend billions on bypass roads, you are wrong. We will pave roads only in critical places."

Peres holds a different view. He is against separation. "I can see it in Gaza. There a separation is feasible. Why did everybody have to be pleased when the government spent $4 billion from the taxpayer's money on the war in Lebanon, but when it asks the world to invest $2 billion in the Palestinians it is so awful?"

Rabin and Peres are convinced that Israel largely benefited from the Oslo agreement. Rabin: "I am going to Oslo feeling at peace with myself. Had it not been for the Oslo agreement there would have been no peace treaty with Jordan; we opened doors throughout the world for Israel; we rid ourselves of the burden of the Palestinian problem which kept haunting us all over the world; we did something; we brought about the beginning of an openness toward Israel in the Arab world."

Peres: "I have no doubts. We caused a tremendous revolution. Rabin and I took the Middle East situation out of the freezer. The Israeli economy got an immense boost. Exports soared. Israel's situation has never been better."

On the other hand, there is terror. When the soldier Nahshon Wachsman was kidnapped, Rabin placed all the blame for terror on 'Arafat. Since then he has had second thoughts.

"Public opinion links terror to the Palestinian Authority," says Rabin, "but that is not necessarily correct. Sixty-nine Israelis were murdered in 1994, most of them by suicide operators who did not come from either Gaza or Jericho, but lived in the West Bank under our rule."

Is it your conclusion that a fence should be erected between the West Bank and Israel in order to separate them?

Rabin: "I have no conclusions. All I say is that we, despite all our efforts, have not succeeded in preventing terror either."

But terror reduces public support for the agreement.

Rabin: "The government and I remain committed to pursue the process."

Even if you come to the conclusion that the process is leading to a catastrophe?

Rabin: "I realize that it is a tough process. We will not agree to solutions that do not provide security. Of course, it will not be full security. Today, too, there is no full security."

Rabin is not happy about the high number of settlements. "We found in the territories a reality that was not created by us," he says.

If you do not like this reality, you can change it, we told him.

Rabin: "The question is when to change. Some issues must be left for the permanent arrangement."

Peres is less agitated about terror. "Terror exists also in England, Spain, and the United States," he told us. "I cannot promise that there will be no acts of terror in the future. The question is whether there will be a different type of relations, more fair relations, between us and them if the general hostility disappears." [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Rabin on 'Arafat, Peace Talks, DPRK Issue

OW1212041494 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 11 Dec 94 Morning Edition p 4

["Exclusive interview" with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by YOMIURI SHIMBUN reporter Shoichi Nasu in Oslo on 10 December]

[FBIS Translated Text] The following are remarks made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin during an exclusive interview with YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Oslo on 10 December [one day before his departure for Japan].

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's Political Power

I believe I will not lose Chairman 'Arafat, who is my peace partner. [sentence as published] The Islamic radical terror organizations like the Hamas and the Islamic Jihad are opposed to peace talks with Israel. They are conducting anti-peace activities in an undemocratic way. They openly carry out terrorism against Israeli people to cause problems. This is a very serious matter to the Israeli Government, because if terrorism continues, the number of Israelis who oppose peace talks will increase. I expect the Palestinian authorities and Chairman 'Arafat will do what they can to cope with the problems.

I believe he is strong enough. The news media tend to underestimate his power. The most effective way to support him is to increase economic aid.

The Issue of the Hamas Participating in Elections

It is up to Palestinians to choose the type of elections. However, the documents we exchanged with PLO Chairman 'Arafat for the self-rule accord require Palestinians to cease terrorism. Without this requirement it would have been impossible to sign the Oslo agreement, not to mention the accord on mutual recognition. This requirement has to be applied to all forces which will participate in the elections. We cannot allow any force to participate if it declares the implementation and continuation of terrorism.

Palestine General Elections

The self-rule accord is no more than an agreement of principles. Before you implement them, you have to negotiate each phase stipulated in the accord. It took seven months to negotiate the start of self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, although it was a minor issue. It took another two weeks to implement self-rule. There may be a delay in holding elections (in that vast area, which includes the West Bank of the Jordan River)

Relations With Japan

We are not seeking contributions from Japan. We hope to develop businesslike relations. There is still room for establishing closer economic relations. That is why I am visiting Japan together with top business leaders.

North Korean Issues

For both Japan and Israel, the main threat comes from North Korea (DPRK). The country has tried to develop nuclear weapons. Iran has provided North Korea with funds to help the country develop a surface-to-surface missile. The missile they have developed is the "Nodong." Its 1,300-km range covers the distance between Iran and Israel. It also covers the distance between North Korea and Japan. We should be aware that any threat from the DPRK is more serious than a threat from China.

Purpose of Visit to South Korea

I would like to ask South Korea to participate in the Middle East peace talks and the multilateral talks, as well as to promote commercial ties with Israel. I do not know (whether or not South Korea shows interest in participating in the talks). I will have an answer to the question after I visit Seoul.

Peace Talks With Syria

The most important thing is to continue the talks. I mean, we should continue talks under the auspices of, or through coordination by, the United States. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher visited Middle East countries and went back home. The United States is trying to bring about some kind of agreement. I do not know how successful the United States will be in its attempt.

Rabin, Peres Receive Nobel Peace Prize

Rabin Gives Address

TA1112150294 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 11 Dec 94

[Speech by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Oslo, Norway, after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize on 10 December; issued in Jerusalem by the prime minister's media adviser]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Your Majesties, Esteemed Chairman and Members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, The Honorable Prime Minister of Norway, My Fellow Laureates, Chairman 'Arafat and the Foreign Minister of Israel, Shim'on Peres, Distinguished Guests,

Since I don't believe that there was any precedent that one person got the Nobel Prize twice, allow me on this opportunity to attach to this prestigious award, a personal touch.

At an age when most youngsters and struggling to unravel the secrets of mathematics and the mysteries of the Bible; at an age when first love blooms; at the tender age of sixteen, I was handed a rifle so that I could defend myself.

That was not my dream. I wanted to be a water engineer. I studied in an agricultural school and I thought being a

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

water engineer was an important profession in the parched Middle East. I still think so today. However, I was compelled to resort to the gun.

I served in the military for decades. Under my responsibility, young men and women who wanted to live, wanted to love, went to their deaths instead. They fell in the defense of our lives.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my current position, I have ample opportunity to fly over the State of Israel, and lately over other parts of the Middle East as well. The view from the plane is breathtaking; deep-blue seas and lakes, dark-green fields, dune-colored deserts, stone-gray mountains, and the entire countryside peppered with white-washed, red-roofed houses.

And also cemeteries. Graves as far as the eye can see.

Hundreds of cemeteries in our part of the world, in the Middle East—in our home in Israel—but also in Egypt, in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon. From the plane's window, from the thousands of feet above them, the countless tombstones are silent. But the sound of their outcry has carried from the Middle East throughout the world for decades.

Standing here today, I wish to salute our loved ones—and past foes. I wish to salute all of them—the fallen of all the countries in all the wars; the members of their families who bear the enduring burden of bereavement; the disabled whose scars will never heal. Tonight, I wish to pay tribute to each and every one of them, for this important prize is theirs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I was a young man who has now grown fully in years. In Hebrew, we say, Na'ar Hayiti, VeGam Zaqanti (I was a young man, who has grown fully in years) [Psalms 37:25]. And of all the memories I have stored up in my seventy-two years, what I shall remember most, to my last day, are the silences:

The heavy silence of the moment after, and the terrifying silence of the moment before.

As a military man, as a commander, as a minister of defense, I ordered to carry out many military operations. And together with the joy of victory and the grief of bereavement, I shall always remember the moment just after taking such decisions: the hush as senior officers or cabinet ministers slowly rise from their seats; the sight of their receding backs; the sound of the closing door; and then the silence in which I remain alone.

That is the moment you grasp that as a result of the decision just made, people might go to their deaths. People from my nation, people from other nations. And they still don't know it.

At that hour, they are still laughing and weeping; still weaving plans and dreaming about love; still musing about planting a garden or building a house—and they have no idea these are their last hours on Earth. Which of them is fated to die? Whose picture will appear in the black frame in tomorrow's newspaper? Whose mother will soon be in mourning? Whose world will crumble under the weight of the loss?

As a former military man, I will also forever remember the silence of the moment before: the hush when the hands of the clock seem to be spinning forward, when time is running out and in another hour, another minute, the inferno will erupt.

In that moment of great tension just before the finger pulls the trigger, just before the fuse begins to burn; in the terrible quiet of the moment, there is still time to wonder, alone: Is it really imperative to act? Is there no other choice? No other way?

"God takes pity on kindergartners," wrote the poet Yehuda 'Amihay, who is here with us this evening—and I quote.

"God takes pity on kindergartners, Less so on the schoolchildren, And will no longer pity their elders, Leaving them to their own, And sometimes they will have to crawl on all fours, Through the burning sand, To reach the casualty station, Bleeding."

For decades, God has not taken pity on the kindergartners in the Middle East, or the schoolchildren, or their elders. There has been no pity in the Middle East for generations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I was a young man who has now grown fully in years. And of all the memories I have stored up in my seventy-two years, I now recall the hopes.

Our peoples have chosen us to give them life. Terrible as it is to say, their lives are in our hands. Tonight, their eyes are upon us and their hearts are asking: How is the power vested in these men and women being used? What will they decide? Into what kind of morning will we rise tomorrow? A day of peace? Of war? Of laughter? Of tears?

A child is born into an utterly undemocratic world. He cannot choose his father and mother. He cannot pick his sex or color, his religion, nationality or homeland. Whether he is born in a manor or a manger, whether he lives under a despotic or democratic regime is not his choice. From the moment he comes, close-fisted, into the world, his fate—to a large extent—is decided by his nation's leaders. It is they who will decide whether he lives in comfort or in despair, in security or in fear. His fate is given to us to resolve—to the governments of countries, democratic or otherwise.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Just as no two fingerprints are identical, so no two people are alike, and every country has its own laws and culture, traditions and leaders. But there in one universal message which can embrace the entire world, one precept which can be common to different regimes, to races which bear no resemblance, to cultures that are alien to each other.

It is a message which the Jewish people has carried for thousands of years, the message found in the Book of Books: Venishmartem me'od lenafshotekhem, it is—"Therefore take good heed of yourselves" [Deuteronomy 4:15]—or, in contemporary terms, the message of the Sanctity of Life.

The leaders of nations must provide their peoples with the conditions—the "infrastructure," if you will—which enables them to enjoy life: freedom of speech and movement; food and shelter; and most important of all: life itself. A man cannot enjoy his rights if he is not alive. And so every country must protect and preserve the key element in its national ethos: the lives of its citizens.

Only to defend those lives, we can call upon our citizens to enlist in the army. And to defend the lives of our citizens serving in the army, we invest huge sums in planes, and tanks, and other means. Yet despite it all, we fail to protect the lives of our citizens and soldiers. Military cemeteries in every corner of the world are silent testimony to the failure of national leaders to sanctify human life.

There is only one radical means for sanctifying human lives.

The one radical solution is a real peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The profession of soldiering embraces a certain paradox. We take the best and the bravest of our young men into the army. We supply them with equipment which costs a virtual fortune. We rigorously train them for the day when they must do their duty—and we expect them to do it well. Yet we fervently pray that that day will never come—that the planes will never take off, the tanks will never move forward, the soldiers will never mount the attacks for which they have been trained so well.

We pray that it will never happen because of the Sanctity of Life.

History as a whole, and modern history in particular, has known harrowing times when national leaders turned their citizens into cannon fodder in the name of wicked doctrines: vicious Fascism, terrible Nazism. Pictures of children marching to slaughter, photos of terrified women at the gates of the crematoria must loom before the eyes of every leader in our generation, and the generations to come. They must serve as a warning to all who wield power.

Almost all regimes which did not place the Sanctity of Life at the heart of their world view, all those regimes have collapsed and are no more. You can see it for yourselves in our own time.

Yet this is not the whole picture. To preserve the Sanctity of Life, we must sometimes risk it. Sometimes there is no other way to defend our citizens than to fight for their lives, for their safety and freedom. This is the creed of every democratic state.

In the State of Israel, from which I come today; in the Israel Defense Forces, which I have had the privilege to serve, we have always viewed the Sanctity of Life as a supreme value. We have never gone to war unless a war was enforced on us.

The history of the State of Israel, the annals of the Israel Defense Forces, are filled with thousands of stories of soldiers who sacrificed themselves—who died while trying to save wounded comrades; who gave their lives to avoid causing harm to innocent people on their enemy's side.

In the coming days, a special commission of the Israel Defense Forces will finish drafting a Code of Conduct for our soldiers. The formulation regarding human life will read as follows, and I quote:

"In recognition of its supreme importance, the soldier will preserve human life in every way possible and endanger himself, or others, only to the extent deemed necessary to fulfill this mission.

"The Sanctity of Life, in the point of view of the soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces, will find expression in all their actions." End quote.

For many years ahead—even if wars come to an end, after peace comes to our land—these words will remain a pillar of fire which goes before our camp, a guiding light for our people. And we take pride in that.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are in the midst of building the peace. The architects and the engineers of this enterprise are engaged in their work even as we gather here tonight, building the peace layer by layer, brick by brick. The job is difficult, complex, trying. Mistakes could topple the whole structure and bring disaster down upon us.

And so we are determined to do the job well—despite the toll of murderous terrorism, despite the fanatic and cruel enemies of peace.

We will pursue the course of peace with determination and fortitude. We will not let up. We will not give in. Peace will triumph over all its enemies, because the alternative is grimmer for us all. And we will prevail.

We will prevail because we regard the building of peace as a great blessing for us, for our children after us. We regard it as a blessing for our neighbors on all sides, and for our partners in this enterprise—the United States,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Russia, Norway—which did so much to bring the agreement that was signed here, later on in Washington, later on in Cairo, that wrote a beginning of the solution to the longest and most difficult part of the Arab-Israeli conflict; the Palestinian-Israeli one. We thank others who have contributed to it too.

We wake up every morning, now, as different people. Peace is possible. We see the hope in our children's eyes. We see the light in our soldiers' faces, in the streets, in the buses, in the fields. We must not let them down. We will not let them down.

I stand here not alone today, on this small rostrum in Oslo. I am here to speak in the name of generations of Israelis and Jews, of the shepherds of Israel—and you know that King David was a shepherd; he started to build Jerusalem about 3,000 years ago—the herdsmen and dressers of sycamore trees, and as the Prophet Amos was; of the rebels against the establishment, as the Prophet Jeremiah was, and of men who went down to the sea, like the Prophet Jonah.

I am here to speak in the name of the poets and of those who dreamed of an end to war, like the Prophet Isaiah.

I am also here to speak in the names of sons of the Jewish people like Albert Einstein and Baruch Spinoza, like Maimonides, Sigmund Freud and Franz Kafka.

And I am the emissary of millions who perished in the Holocaust, among whom were surely many Einsteins and Freuds who were lost to us, and to humanity, in the flames of the crematoria.

I am here as the emissary of Jerusalem, at whose gates I fought in the days of siege; Jerusalem which has always been, and is today, the eternal capital of the State of Israel and the heart of the Jewish people, who pray toward Jerusalem three times a day.

And I am also the emissary of the children who drew their visions of peace; and of the immigrants from St. Petersburg and Addis Ababa.

I stand here mainly for the generations to come, so that we may all be deemed worthy of the medal which you have bestowed on me and my colleagues today.

I stand here as the emissary today—if they will allow me—of our neighbors who were our enemies. I stand here as the emissary of the soaring hopes of a people which has endured the worst that history has to offer and nevertheless made its mark—not just on the chronicles of the Jewish people but on all mankind.

With me here are five million citizens of Israel—Jews, Arabs, Druze and Circassians—five million hearts beating for peace—and five million pairs of eyes which look at us with such great expectations for peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to thank, first and foremost, those citizens of the State of Israel, of all the generations, of all the political persuasions, whose sacrifices and relentless struggle for peace bring us steadier closer to our goal.

I wish to thank our partners—the Egyptians, the Jordanians, and the Palestinians, that are led by the Chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, with whom we share this Nobel Prize—who have chosen the path of peace and are writing a new page in the annals of the Middle East.

I wish to thank the members of the Israeli government, but above all my partner the Foreign Minister, Mr. Shim'on Peres, whose energy and devotion to the cause of peace are an example to us all.

I wish to thank my family that supported me all the long way that I have passed.

And, of course, I wish to thank the Chairman, the members of the Nobel Prize Committee and the courageous Norwegian people for bestowing this illustrious honor on my colleagues and myself.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to close by sharing with you a traditional Jewish blessing which has been recited by my people, in good times and bad ones, as a token of their deepest longing:

"The Lord will give strength to his people; the Lord will bless his people—and all of us—in peace."

Peres Gives Speech

TA1112144494 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 11 Dec 94

[Speech by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Oslo, Norway, after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize on 10 December; issued in Jerusalem by the Foreign Ministry spokesman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Your Majesties, Members of the Nobel Committee, Prime Minister Brundtland, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Members of the Norwegian Government, Distinguished Guests,

I thank the Nobel Prize Committee for its decision to name me among the laureates of the Peace Prize this year.

I am pleased to be receiving this prize together with Yitzhaq Rabin, with whom I have labored for long years for the defense of our country and with whom I now labor together in the cause of peace in our region. This is a salute to his daring leadership.

I believe it is fitting that the prize has been awarded to Yasir 'Arafat. His quitting the path of confrontation in favor of the path of dialogue, has opened the way to peace between ourselves and the Palestinian people, a people that we wish all the best in the future.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

We are leaving behind us the era of belligerency and are striding together toward peace. It all began here in Oslo, under the wise auspices and good will of the Norwegian people. It is a privilege for me to say thank you to the Norwegian people for these great auspices.

Your Majesties, from my earliest youth, I have known that while obliged to plan with care the stages of our journey, we are entitled to dream, and keep dreaming, of its destination. A man may feel as old as his years, yet as young as his dreams. The laws of biology do not apply to the sanguine aspiration.

I was born in a small Jewish town in White Russia. Nothing Jewish remains of it. From my youngest childhood, I related to my place of birth as a mere way station. My family's dream, and my own, was to live in Israel, and our voyage to the port of Yafo was a dream that came true. Had it not been for this dream and this voyage, I would probably have perished in the flames, as did so many of my people, among them most of my own family.

I went to school at an agricultural youth village in the heart of Israel. The village and its fields were enclosed by barbed wire which separated their greenness from the bleakness of the enmity all around the village. In the morning, we would go out to the fields with scythes on our backs to harvest the crop. In the evening, we went out with rifles on our shoulders to defend our lives. On Shabbat, we would go out to visit the Arab neighbors. On Shabbat, we would talk with them of peace, though the rest of the week we traded rifle fire across the darkness.

From the Ben Shemen youth village, my comrades and myself went to Kibbutz Alummot in the Lower Galilee. We had no houses, no electricity, no running water. But we had magnificent view and a lofty dream: to build a new, egalitarian society that would ennoble each of its members.

Not all of it came true, but not all of it went to waste. The part that came true created a new landscape. The part that did not come true resides in our hearts to this very day.

For two decades in the Ministry of Defense, I was privileged to work closely with a man who was and remains, to my mind, the greatest Jew of our time. From him I learned that the vision of the future should shape the agenda for the present; that you can overcome obstacles by dint of faith; that you may feel disappointed—but never despair. And above all, I learned that the wisest consideration is the moral one. David Ben-Gurion has passed away, yet his vision continues to flourish: to be a singular people, to live at peace with our neighbors.

The wars we fought were forced upon us. Thanks to the Israel Defense Forces, we won them all, but we didn't win the greatest victory that we aspired to: release from the need to win victories.

We proved that aggressors do not necessarily emerge as victors, but we learned that victors do not necessarily win peace.

It is no wonder that war, as a matter of conducting human affairs, is in the death throes and that the time has come to bury it.

The sword, as the Bible teaches us, consumes flesh but it cannot provide sustenance. It is not rifles but people who triumph, and the conclusion from all the wars is that we need better people—not better rifles—to win war, to avoid them, to win peace.

There was a time when war was fought for lack of choice. Today, it is peace that is the "no-choice" option for all of us. The reasons for this are profound and incontrovertible. The sources of material wealth and political power have changed. No longer are they determined by the size of territory won by war. Today, they are a consequence of intellectual potential, obtained principally by education.

Israel, essentially a desert country, has achieved remarkable agricultural yields by applying science to its fields, without expanding its territory or its water resources.

Science must be learned; it cannot be conquered. An army that can occupy knowledge has yet to be built. And that is why armies of occupation are passe. Indeed, even for the defense of the country, you cannot rely just on the army alone. Territorial frontiers are no obstacle to ballistic missiles, and no weapon can shield a nation from a nuclear device. So today, the battle for survival must be based on political wisdom and moral vision, not less than on military might.

Science, technology, information are—for better or for worse—universal, not national. They are universally available. Their availability is not contingent on color of skin or place of birth. Past distinctions between West and East, North and South, have lost their importance in the face of a new distinction: between those who move ahead in pace with new opportunities and those who lag behind.

Countries used to divide the world into their friends and foes. No longer. The foes now are universal—poverty, famine, religious radicalization, desertification, drugs, proliferation of nuclear weapons, ecological devastation. They threaten all nations, just as science and information are the potential friend of all nations.

Classical diplomacy and strategy were aimed at identifying enemies and confronting them. Now they have to identify dangers, local and global, to tackle them before they become a disaster.

As we live in a world of enemies, as we enter a world of dangers, the future of wars that may break out will not be—probably—the wars of the strong against the weak from conquest, but the wars of the weak against the strong for protest.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The Middle East must never lose pride in having been the cradle of civilization. But though living in the cradle, we cannot remain infants forever. Time has come to mature.

Today, as in my youth, I carry dreams. I will mention two: the future of the Jewish people and the future of the Middle East.

In history, Judaism has been far more successful than the Jews themselves. The Jewish people remained small but the spirit of Jerusalem—the capital of Jewish life, the city holy and open to all religions—the spirit of Jerusalem went from strength to strength. The Bible is to be found in hundreds of millions of homes. The moral majesty of the Book of Books has been undefeated by the ups and downs of history.

Moreover, time and again, history has succumbed to the Bible's immortal ideas. The message that the one, invisible God created Man in His image, and hence there are no higher or lower orders of man, has fused with the realization that morality is the highest form of wisdom and, perhaps, of beauty and courage too.

Slings, arrows, gas chambers can annihilate man, but they cannot destroy human values, the dignity and the freedom of a human being.

Jewish history presents an encouraging lesson for mankind. For nearly four thousand years, a small nation carried a great message. Initially, the nation dwelt in its own land; later, it wandered in exile. This small nation swam against the tide and was repeatedly persecuted, banished, downtrodden.

There is no other example in all history, neither among the great empires nor among their colonies and dependencies—of a nation, after so long a saga of tragedy and misfortune, rising up again, shaking itself free, gathering together its dispersed remnants, and setting out anew on its national adventure. Defeating doubters within and enemies without. Reviving its land and its language. Rebuilding its identity, and reaching toward new heights of distinction and excellence.

The message of the Jewish people to mankind is that faith and moral vision can triumph over all adversity.

The conflicts shaping up as our century nears its close, will be over the content of civilization, not over territory. Jewish culture has lived over many centuries, now it has taken root again in its own soil. For the first time in our history, some five million people speak Hebrew as their native language. That is both a lot and a little: a lot, because there have never been so many Hebrew-speaking people; but a little, because culture based on five million people can hardly withstand the pervasive, corrosive effect of the global television culture.

In the five decades of Israel's existence, our efforts have focused on re-establishing our territorial center. In the future, we shall have to devote our main effort to strengthen our spiritual center. Judaism—or Jewishness—is a fusion of belief, history, land and language. Being Jewish means to belong to a people that is both unique and universal. My greatest hope is that our children, like our forefathers, will not make do with the transient and the sham, but will continue to plow the historic Jewish furrow in the fields of human spirit; that Israel will become the center of our heritage, not merely a homeland for our people; that the Jewish people will be inspired by others, but at the same be to them a source of inspiration.

And the second dream is about the Middle East. In the Middle East, most people are impoverished and wretched. A new scale of priority is needed, with weapons on the bottom and regional market economy on the top. Most inhabitants of the region—more than 60

—are under the age of eighteen. The Middle East is a huge kindergarten, a huge school. A new future can be and should be offered to them. Israel has computerized its education and has achieved excellent results. Education can be computerized throughout the Middle East, allowing young people, Arabs and others, to progress not just from grade to grade, but from generation to generation.

Israel's role in the Middle East should be to contribute to a great, sustained regional revival. A Middle East without wars, without enemies, without ballistic missiles, without nuclear weapons. A Middle East in which men, goods and services can move freely, without the need for customs clearance or police licenses.

A Middle East in which every believer will be free to pray in his own language—Arabic, Hebrew, Latin, or whatever language he chooses—and in which the prayers will reach their destination without censorship, without interference, without offending anyone.

A Middle East in which nations strive for economic equality and encourage cultural pluralism.

A Middle East where young men and women can attain university education.

A Middle East where living standards are in no way inferior to those in the world's most advanced countries.

Your Majesties, may I say, a Middle East very much like Scandinavia, like your own region.

A Middle East where waters flow to slack thirst, to make crops grow and deserts bloom, in which no hostile borders bring death, hunger, despair, or shame.

A Middle East of competition, not of domination. A Middle East in which men are each other's hosts, not hostages.

A Middle East that is not a killing field but a field of creativity and growth.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Middle East that honors so much its history that it strives to add to it new noble chapters.

A Middle East which will serve as a spiritual and cultural focal point for the entire world.

While thanking you for the Prize, thanking the many people in uniform and in civil dress in many nations, for arriving to this moment of happiness and hope, I believe that all of us remain committed to the process. I thank my family that stood behind me for such a long journey, and are convinced as I am that this is the best option. We have reached the age where dialogue is really the only way to run the world correctly.

Your Majesties, Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I wish all of you a happy new year, a year of hope and peace.

Likud Criticizes Rabin, Peres

TA1012190694 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Dec 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Reacting to today's Nobel Prize ceremony, the Likud claimed that Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres degraded the Israeli people by receiving the prize. Rabin must not speak about the Holocaust martyrs while receiving the prize with a person who has followed in the footsteps of the Nazis.

Protests Against Award Held

TA1112062794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Protests against the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony took place in various parts of Israel and Gaza yesterday and last night. Several hundred supporters of opposition parties and settlers demonstrated in Jerusalem, Haifa, Tel Aviv, Ra'anana, and at several road junctions in the north. In Jerusalem, protesters carried torches to the Foreign Ministry and held pictures of 101 Israelis killed by Arab terrorists since the Oslo accord last year.

Some 5,000 Palestinians, members of the PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine], Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and Islamic Jihad demonstrated in Gaza yesterday to mark the 26th anniversary of the PFLP.

Rabin, Peres Welcome al-Shar' Statement on Contacts

TA1012152094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has welcomed Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar's statement on resuming contacts with Israel. The prime minister said in Oslo that the very fact Syria is willing to exchange opinions is a positive thing, because it will pave the way for an open exchange of opinions. Mr. Rabin said that even though this does not meet all of Israel's expectations, it is a good beginning.

Earlier today Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres also reacted positively to al-Shar's statement.

Sarid Terms Christopher Visit 'Very Significant'

TA1112165494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, Minister Yosi Sarid, who is involved in contacts with Syria, said there has been progress with Damascus despite gloomy assessments earlier. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] It is the kind of compromise of which peace talks are made. The agreement to resume talks between Israel and Syria was made possible by not classifying them as open or secret, and even leaving open whether they are negotiations or just discussions. After meeting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher last week, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said there was no substantial progress with the Syrians. But cabinet minister Yosi Sarid, who took part in that meeting, maintains Israeli officials were not being misleading. He said the Israelis were not being pessimistic, they were just not being listened to properly by the media:

[Sarid] When Secretary Christopher was here we said very clearly and very explicitly that there is progress with regard to the Syrian channel, but nobody believed. Now when Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister of Syria, said it, now it's trustworthy. But the visit of Secretary Christopher was very important, very significant, and now we can see the fruits.

[Ze'ev] Prime Minister Rabin called for secret talks, the Syrians said they want the resumption of the open bilateral negotiations in Washington. What will we have in the coming weeks?

[Sarid] Well, talks, negotiations are always a combination of both: open and secret. Without an open channel there will be no good prospects for good news, and without a secret channel there are no prospects whatsoever for progress. So it's a matter of a very delicate combination and balance between the open and the secret channels.

[Ze'ev] Is there any indication of a willingness by the Syrians to raise the level of the negotiations to the ministerial level, for example?

[Sarid] No, I believe what the foreign minister of Syria said, these are the facts. The negotiations will be resumed and there will be a presence of military representatives from both sides, and it's a good move. [end recording]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Minister Sarid spoke outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem following the weekly meeting of the cabinet.

Map Drawn Up of Final Status Security Concerns

TA0912122594 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky and Alon Pinkas]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] A map of final status security concerns has been drawn up to guide Israel during the next phase of interim status negotiations with the Palestinians, Police Minister Moshe Shahal told THE JERUSALEM POST last night. [passage omitted]

Shahal, whose ministry has been involved in preparations for the upcoming negotiations with the Palestinians, said "a map now exists of our security concerns for final status. One cannot hold talks severed from our needs in final status."

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has avoided discussing blueprints for final status, insisting the interim agreement with the Palestinians is unrelated to the final disposition of territories.

"I am aware of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] plans for these negotiations," said Shahal. "On security issues, we are talking about the integration of final status elements that I believe are acceptable to a majority of the nation."

At the same time, Shahal said he believes the IDF can redeploy without bowing to Palestinian demands that settlements be uprooted during the interim period. "Right now, I rule out moving settlements" into blocs, he added.

"Redeployment will be comprehensive, but there will be easy parts and hard parts," he said. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

New Israeli Embassy Officially Opens in Amman

Protest March Banned

NC1012211494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, 10 Dec (MENA)—The Jordanian security authorities have rejected a request by eight Jordanian political parties to organize a protest march tomorrow, Sunday, on the occasion of the opening of the Israeli Embassy in Amman. The march was to end in front of the Foreign Ministry.

In a statement issued this evening, the eight parties said they deeply regret this undemocratic measure and reserve the right to confront this martial decision through every democratic and legal means.

The statement called on the Jordanian people to express their rejection of an Israeli embassy in Amman and of the martial measures taken by the Jordanian Government. [passage omitted]

Parties Regret Ban

JN1112121694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Dec 94 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—On the eve of the official opening of the Israeli embassy in Amman the Islamic Action Front (IAF) Saturday [10 December] urged Jordanians to boycott the embassy, to refrain from applying for visas from the mission and to boycott all its activities.

"We are sure that the Israeli embassy here will serve as a centre for hatching conspiracies on our culture, our mosques, our Koran, our schools, our morals and our national economy," the IAF said in a statement Saturday.

The statement urged Jordanians to unify ranks to "isolate this embassy so that it would find itself totally outcast within an environment that rejects its existence so that the enemy would realise that official normalisation of relations can by no means subjugate our people's will."

The statement recalled the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel saying it offered the best guide for Jordan because the Egyptian people "rejected the presence of the Jews" and boycotted their embassy as alien with no place amongst the Arab population.

Describing the raising of the Israeli flag on the embassy in Amman Sunday as a black day, the statement said the event represented a departure from the nation's principled stands and a violation of the majority of the Jordanian people's will.

The statement praised the Palestinian intifada and said that Arabs and Muslims continue to hold on to their rights, "despite the Zionists' arrogance and the backing Israel gets from the United States and the Western nations."

Also Saturday, eight political parties including the IAF issued a separate statement expressing regret over a government ban on a march they planned, for Sunday from the Interior Ministry Circle to the Foreign Ministry.

The statement said that the eight parties had been planning to organise the march in protest against the opening of the Israeli embassy, and a sit-in at the Foreign Ministry, when they received clear orders from the Amman governor banning the march.

The statement said the eight parties regretted the ban which they described as contrary to the rules of democracy, saying they preserve the right to deal with this issue with legal and democratic means.

The statement was signed by the following parties: They Jordan Ba'th Socialist Party, the IAF, the National Action Front, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic People's Party, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordanian Democratic Arab Party and the Jordanian Democratic Unionists Party.

Later on the day, a government source told the Jordan Times it was agreed that the parties would hold a vigil protest in front of the prime ministry on Sunday.

Parties Condemn Opening

JN1212131194 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 12 Dec 94 p 2

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Parties opposed to the peace treaty with Israel have said that a black day for our nation is drawing near and that a new penetration is being made through the opening of the embassy of the Zionist enemy in Amman, which remained impregnable to this penetration when it was under the pan-Arab cloak and raising its banner. This part of the world is Arab and Islamic regardless of any circumstances, ordeals, or upheavals. This penetration comes at a time when we are in dire need of continuing steadfastness and standing tall in order for this country to press ahead with its promising march and to safeguard the nation's message and principles.

In a statement issued on the opening of the enemy's embassy in Amman, the eight parties added that the presence of an embassy of the Zionist enemy, with the Star of David fluttering over it in Amman is a defiance of the feelings of the sons of the homeland and all the sons of the Arab and Islamic nations. It represents an arrogant defiance of every Arab citizen who feels rage within him. It seeks to achieve the enemy's strategy of dominating the Arab region and turning this den into a center for espionage and intelligence activities and a means to

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

intensify political and economic activities. The enemy will use the openness provided in this national arena to infiltrate the entire Arab arena after it has failed to do so through the Egyptian channel, where our Arab people managed to curb the creeping Zionist serpent despite the penetration accomplished in Camp David.

They added: This penetration comes within the context of serious normalization, toward which the government is keen to proceed despite the strong opposition by all our people's sectors and conscious and aware forces that are opposed to the peace process and the dangers and negative effects it poses. The opposition is there despite the false media rallying practiced by the government and despite the blackout and strangulation attempts targeting all forms of expression of the national oppcsition to expose the treaty and its rejected requirements.

The opening of the embassy is a culmination of defiance and disregard for the feelings, sacrifices, and struggle of the homeland's sons and the fresh blood of their martyrs. The opening of the embassy comes at a time when the enemy is persisting with its occupation of our land, displacement of our people, and implementation of its aggressive designs.

They said: Parties opposed to capitulation and normalization announce their condemnation and denunciation of this serious measure and its consequences and implications. They consider their condemnation and denunciation the beginning of all the Arab and Islamic masses' expression of indignation and anger and move to stop this deterioration and put an end to tampering with the destiny and future of this nation and to the defiance of the feelings of millions of the nation's sons. These millions proudly reject the creation of an embassy of the Zionist enemy in their midst and call for tearing up the treaty of humiliation and capitulation. This treaty calls for bridling the nation's will and for normalizing relations with the usurping enemy to the extent of forging an alliance with it and even submitting to its hegemony and stipulations that this country's relations with its nation be severed and replaced by relations with the Zionist enemy. Such a drive is very serious because this penetration will extend outside the homeland to the Arab Gulf and will lead to the domination of the nation's resources and markets after discarding its identity and replacing it with the Middle East plan.

Accelerating the opening of the embassy came to carry out a number of serious measures that would cover various fields and laws in order to conform with the requirements of the rejected capitulation treaty. We warn against the dangers inherent in this and the ensuing measures and stress the need to reject all forms of normalization with the enemy and to stand as a tough bulwark against it.

We also call for combating all forms of normalization as regards the enemy's goods and produce or dealing with it in any way or form. The enemy was dumbfounded that it could not find anybody willing to cooperate with it in purchasing a plot of land or a place of residence for the embassy; therefore they had to open the embassy in one of the capital's hotels. We hope that this boycott of the enemy's first step toward invading us and residing among us will be the forerunner of your heroic struggle and resistance against all forms of normalization with it. Struggle and resistance against all forms of normalization will continue unabated despite all pressures and coercion exercised by the government against the sons of our people, who started to realize the falsehood of the claims and empty promises of what will be realized by the deals of submission and capitulation. The deterioration of the economic situation, the increase in the peoples' suffering, and the hike in prices are merely harbingers of the dim future awaiting all and which is the poisonous fruit of the submission deals.

Concluding, they said: O sons of our heroic people, reject normalization with the enemy and abstain from dealing with its embassy. Nobody can force a citizen to do something that contradicts with his beliefs. The agreements will become a body without a soul, and they will fall. Our people will emerge victorious and the martyrs' blood will not be wasted.

The statement was signed by the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, Islamic Action Front, the Pan-Arab Action Front Party, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, Jordanian People's Democratic Party (Hashd), the Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party, and the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party.

IAF Assails Opening

JN1212154894 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Dec 94 p 10

[Report by Nayif al-Muhaysin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The House of Representatives held a session yesterday evening under Speaker Engineer Sa'd Hayil al-Surur. Acting Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah and a number of ministers attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

Deputy Sulayman al-Sa'd delivered a speech on behalf of the Islamic Action Front [IAF] members and deputies Khalil Haddadin and Tujan Faysal on opening the Israeli Embassy in Amman yesterday.

He said: Despite our sadness, denunciation, and condemnation of opening an embassy for the usurping enemy in our country, we will not forget on this occasion to salute our militant people in Jerusalem and Palestine. We also send a salute of esteem and high regard to the people of the valiant intifadah who have entered a new year of their blessed intifadah .

Moreover, we salute the righteous martyrs whose blood has watered the land of Palestine. These martyrs include the sons of Arabism and Islam and the martyrs of our Jordanian Arab Army who fell while defending the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

nation and the homeland. We pledge to God the almighty and to the souls of the righteous martyrs that we will remain true to their blood and pure souls. Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with God: Of them some have completed their vow (to the extreme), and some (still) wait: But they have never changed (their determination) in the least. [Koranic verse]

Concluding his speech, deputy al-Sa'd said: We reject normalization with the usurping enemy. We also reject opening an embassy for this enemy on our territory. We call on all sectors of our lofty people to refrain from dealing with this embassy in order to prove, first to the Zionist entity, and, second, to the world forces of arrogance that there is no room for the usurpers on our territory. We will continue to resist all the political, economic, and cultural forms of normalization until a day comes when the nation restores its might and glory. And God hath full power and control over His affairs; but most among mankind know it not. [Koranic verse] [passage omitted]

Opposition Stages Sit-In

JN1112125294 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Dec 94

[Report by Randah Habib in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Embassy of Israel was opened at a Forte Grande Hotel suite in Amman today. [passage omitted]

Jordanian opposition parties staged a sit-in in front of the Prime Ministry in Amman today. They burned the Israeli flag and raised slogans against normalization of relations with Israel.

The Islamic Action Front and leftist opposition parties have called for staging sit-ins in various places in protest the opening of the Israeli Embassy in Amman.

Further on Protest

JN1112190594 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Eight opposition parties staged a sit-in in front of the Prime Ministry today to protest the opening of the provisional site of the Israeli embassy in Amman.

Approximately 200 members of these parties, including a number of deputies from the Islamic Action Front Party, assembled in that place. They obtained the government's approval of a request which they submitted in advance. They raised slogans expressing their rejection of the opening of the Israeli embassy in Amman. The participants in the sit-in dispersed after approximately an hour.

Protests Continue

NC1212134094 Paris AFP in English 1232 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Dec 12 (AFP)—Around 300 students staged protests Monday [12 December] in Amman university against the opening of Israel's first embassy in Jordan, an AFP correspondent reported.

The demonstration was organised by the students' council which is dominated by Islamic fundamentalists opposed to Israeli-Jordanian peace.

Students waved black banners condemning the Jewish state's mission which opened Sunday, following the October 26 peace treaty between the two former enemies.

"The Zionist embassy in Amman will help normalisation" between Jordan and Israel, read one banner carried by students dressed in black and wearing white veils.

Student representatives blasted the new embassy as a "nest of spies" in speeches. One read out an Arabic poem rejecting peace with Israel, while the crowed burned the Jewish state's flag to shouts of "Allah Akhbar" or God is great.

Plain-clothed policemen prevented the press from filming the demonstration, jostling cameramen from an international television network.

Eight opposition parties including the Islamic Action Front organised a sit-in Sunday outside the offices of Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali to protest the opening of the embassy.

Around 200 protestors burned an Israeli flag, while organisers called it a "black day for the Arab nation."

Israel's Star of David flag, which was officially hoisted outside the embassy in an Amman hotel for the first time on Jordanian soil, had disappeared from sight on Monday.

Israeli Officials Comment

JN1112170694 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, 11 Dec (PETRA)—[passage omitted] Ya'aqov Rosen, Israeli charge d'Affaires in Jordan, delivered a speech in which he said: The opening of the Israeli embassy in Amman is a dream come true. The two countries will begin to promote bilateral cooperation in the interest of the countries' peoples as well as the region's peoples as the first step to develop the Middle East. He stressed that the age of war is over and the age of peace, development, and construction has begun.

In statements to journalists, Ahmad al-Mubayyidin, director of the Information Department at the Foreign

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Ministry, said that that the Jordanian Government will provide all possible facilities to the Israeli embassy which was opened in Amman today in accordance with the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations.

He stressed that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty springs from a full Jordanian conviction, saying that there are Arab, regional, and international signs indicating that Jordan is proceeding on the right path. He added that what took place today is only a step in the process of a just and comprehensive peace which Jordan seeks to achieve in the region.

Egal Palmoz [name as transliterated], deputy media spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry, said that at the beginning, the embassy will include two diplomats, and that the number of diplomats will increase gradually with the promotion of relations between Jordan and Israel, pointing to the possibility of seeking the help of Jordanian citizens to work at the Israeli embassy in Amman.

He added that the embassy will start its official work tomorrow, Monday, by contacting the ministries and official departments, and that it will first focus its work on the promotion of economic relations between the two countries.

Hasan Stresses Safeguarding Palestinian Ties

JN1012203294 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 10 Dec 94

[From "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, said that the main challenge facing Jordan is the respect for institutionality, working towards bolstering it, and to overpass isolated personal opinions that lack comprehensivity.

During a meeting at the Royal Court that was attended by heads of peace negotiating teams with Israel, the regent asserted the need to convey clear information to the people, and to concentrate on Jordanian initiative in all fields.

Following a dialogue that lasted for several hours, the regent stressed the need to safeguard the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, and its Jordanian-Arab dimension, which is based on a permanent strategy.

Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad al-Lawzi spoke at the meeting and hailed efforts of his majesty the king and the follow-up by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent.

Speaker of the Lower House Sa'd Hayil Surur also spoke and thanked the regent for initiative in deepening dialogue among various departments and the authorities.

Officials Meet With Palestinians on Labor Issues

JN1012145494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The subject of developing and bolstering cooperation between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] in the field of labor and workers and how to benefit from the Jordanian expertise in this field was discussed in the expanded meeting held at the Ministry of Labor between the Jordanian side led by Khalid al-Ghizawi, minister of labor, and the Palestinian side led by Dr. Samir Ghawshah, who is in charge of labor affairs in the PNA.

Al-Ghizawi briefed Dr. Ghawshah on the ministry and its various departments. He emphasized an eagerness to maintain cooperation and coordination in order to activate labor and worker cooperation between the two sisterly states, based on fraternal relations in the labor and workers fields.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Al-Hirawi Returns From Syria; Talks Noted

NC1112183894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi returned to B'abda Palace at 1915 today following a six-hour meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus. Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi attended part of the meeting.

Mr. Jubran Kuriyah, spokesman for the Syrian Presidential Office, said that the summit meeting dealt with bilateral, regional, and international issues, as well as the outcome of contacts held by the Syrian and Lebanese sides. He said the two presidents held in-depth discussions on the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Presidents al-Hirawi and al-Asad stressed the importance of continued cooperation and coordination to serve the interests of the two countries and the general Arab interests, he said.

Kuriyah added: The two presidents also reviewed the progress of bilateral cooperation in various fields. This progress was cause for satisfaction for the two presidents, who expressed a joint desire to deepen and expand the cooperation in the interest of the two fraternal countries. He said President al-Hirawi expressed his appreciation for President al-Asad's continued support for Lebanon in all fields. President al-Asad also reaffirmed Syria's decision to provide every assistance to fraternal Lebanon.

Al-Shar' Notes Lack of Progress in Talks

JN0912193094 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening. The meeting was attended by Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al—Hariri, and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. Al-Shar' conveyed to President al-Hirawi a message from his brother President Hafiz al-Asad that deals with the result of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent visit to Damascus.

In statements to reporters following the meeting, al-Shar' noted that the message deals with the results of Christopher's visit to Damascus and his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad. He said that there is a U.S. attempt to narrow the existing gaps in the Syrian track and to remove the obstacles facing the peace process. Asked about progress in Christopher's recent tour, al-Shar' said: I cannot talk about progress because no such progress has been made.

Leaves Beirut for Morocco

NC0912174794 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left Beirut on board a private plane for Morocco to take part in the Islamic summit. To see him off at the airport was Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Al-Hariri Leaves for Casablanca ICO Conference

NC1212095194 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left for Morocco today to chair the Lebanese delegation to the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] conference in Casablanca. The conference will hold its sessions on 13 and 14 December.

Opening of Israeli Embassy in Amman Viewed

NC1212065894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At a time when Lebanon and Syria are reasserting their commitment to a fair and comprehensive solution to the region's crisis in accordance with UN resolutions, Jordan, away from Arab solidarity, something it has repeatedly advocated, has continued its normalization steps with the Israelis. Within his framework, the Israeli flag has been hoisted in Amman, having already been raised in Cairo, as Jordan and Israel opened embassies in Amman and Tel Aviv. The temporary headquarters of the Israeli Embassy was opened on the sixth floor of the Forte Grand Hotel in Amman. The Israeli Foreign Ministry deputy director general unveiled a plaque on which was written, in Arabic, Hebrew, and English, the Israeli Embassy.

Amid opposition outcries that it was a black day in the nation's history, Amman witnessed protests over the opening of the Israeli Embassy in the Jordanian capital. The leaders of eight leftist political parties and members of parliament staged a sit-in in front of the Prime Ministry. Sit-in participants emphasized their rejection and denunciation of the opening of the Israeli Embassy in Amman. They stressed their rejection of all forms of normalization in relations with Israel. The Jordanian opposition parties described the opening of the Israeli Embassy in Amman as defiance of the feelings of millions of Jordanians, who reject normalizing relations with the Hebrew state and see it as a black day for the Arab nation.

'Civilian Targets' in South Coming Under Attack

NC1112141294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] It is reported that the Israeli enemy army and South Lebanese Army are currently bombarding civilian targets in the liberated area in south Lebanon.

Hizballah Official Vows To Wipe Out SLA

NC1012130094 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hasan Huballah, a Hizballah political leader, has stated that Hizballah will pursue the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

destruction of what has remained of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] because its elimination is one of the first steps to liberate the south from Israel. Huballah said that the SLA is on the verge of collapse, despite Israel's attempts to boost the morale of its men.

Hizballah Claims Attack on Israeli Patrol

NC1112123694 Paris AFP in English 1210 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Marj 'Uyun, Lebanon, Dec 11 (AFP)—One Israeli soldier was killed and three wounded in a bomb attack Sunday [11 December] in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon, security sources said.

Three civilians were also injured when guerrillas rained Katyusha rockets and shells on Marj 'Uyun, headquarters of the Israeli army and its proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA), the sources said.

But in Jerusalem Israeli military officials said five Israeli soldiers had been lightly wounded in a bomb explosion in the area of Marj 'Uyun.

The attack prompted heavy Israeli air activity over the area with warplanes carrying out mock raids and firing flares.

Ambulances and helicopters also rushed to the scene as Lebanese police said there was "a big number of casualties."

Residents in Marj 'Uyun headed for shelters as guerrillas slammed dozens of rockets and shells into the town, security sources and an AFP correspondent reported.

Israeli forces and the SLA retaliated by firing more than 60 shells on strongholds of the Shiite Muslim fundamentalist movement Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah, a ridge facing the zone.

A Hizballah spokesman in Beirut confirmed that guerrillas attacked an Israeli convoy near Marj 'Uyun and said anti-Israeli fighters also fired machine guns and rockets at another patrol in Bra'shit, in the central sector scoring a direct hit and causing casualties.

Israeli officials said their troops had opened up with artillery guns against "enemy" positions north of the zone.

Anti-Israeli fighters, spearheaded by the Iranian-backed Hizballah, have stepped up attacks on Israeli troops and SLA militiamen in recent days.

On Saturday a SLA militiamen was killed and another wounded in an attack on the zone, according to security sources, three days after Hizballah killed nine militiamen and wounded 10 others.

Hizballah has vowed to eliminate the SLA in a bid to end Israeli occupation of south Lebanon.

Israeli Shelling, Marj 'Uyun Incident Reported

NC1112122294 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The shelling of the central sector villages from the Israeli positions in Haddathah and Bra'shit resumed at 1200 today. The outskirts of Safad al-Battikh, Majdal Silm, Qabrikha, and Bra'shit came under 81- and 120-mm artillery fire. The shelling concentrated on the roads leading to these villages while sniper fire targeted residential areas. At 1215 the outskirts of Tibnin came under 155-mm artillery fire from an Israeli position in [word indistinct].

According to security sources in Tyre that are following up on the situation, approximately 16 katyushas were fired as of 1220 and up to now from the eastern sector. The sources were unable of determine where the katyushas landed. The same sources added that violent clashes have been taking place since 1230 in the Marj 'Uyun area between a mechanized Israeli patrol and resistance groups. In the meantime, another resistance group attacked the Bra'shit position. No further details are available. [passage omitted]

Islamic Resistance Claims Attack on Tallusah Post

NC1212103394 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance has issued a statement claiming responsibility for an attack carried out by one of its units against the Tallusah position this morning. The statement said the attack occurred while a special Israeli unit was at the position and resulted in the killing and wounding of the unit's members and the destruction of the position.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Secret Contacts 'Do Not,' 'Will Not' Take Place

JN1012200994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Dec 94

[Report by Thana' al-Imam in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the news conference by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Beirut yesterday, in which he announced that contacts between Syria and Israel will take place in Washington under U.S. sponsorship, official Syrian sources denied—in a statement to Radio Monte Carlo today—any secret talks between Syria and Israel. The sources added that these contacts did not take place in the past, do not take place now, and will not take place in the future. The sources noted that the statement issued by the U.S. Department of State yesterday confirms the abovementioned, as the sources put it.

The Syrian sources said the next contacts which will be held between the Syrian and Israeli sides will be under U.S. sponsorship and with its participation. The sources declined to describe these discussions as negotiations, noting that they only aim at exchanging ideas to help resume the bilateral talks.

UN General Assembly Resolution on Golan Reported

JN1112090494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN General Assembly has approved a draft resolution on the Israeli practices in the occupied Syrian Golan with a majority of 145 votes, an increase of 60 votes compared with last year's vote. Only Israel opposed the resolution. A major positive shift was noted in the position of the European Union states, which voted in favor of the draft resolution after abstaining from doing so last year.

In this resolution, the General Assembly emphasized its previous resolutions, which call on Israel to terminate its occupation of the Arab territories and which reiterate that the possession of lands by force is inadmissible under the UN Charter. The General Assembly also stressed the applicability of the 1949 Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in times of war to the occupied Syrian Golan. The resolution called on Israel to abide by the resolutions on the Golan, especially Security Council Resolution 497 of 1981, stipulating that Israel's decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction, and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan is null and void and has no international legality.

The resolution also called on Israel, the occupation authority, to rescind this decision immediately and to stop altering the architectural character and demographic makeup of the occupied Syrian Golan, and more specifically to stop building settlements.

The resolution stressed that the General Assembly decided that all the legislative and administrative measures taken or that will be taken by Israel with the aim of altering the character of the occupied Syrian Golan and its legal status are null and void and a blatant violation of the international law and the 1949 Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in times of war and that they will have no legality.

The resolution also called on Israel to stop imposing Israeli citizenship and identity cards on Syrian citizens in the Golan. It also called on it to stop the repressive practices against the inhabitants of the occupied Syrian Golan. The General Assembly also condemned Israel's violations of the 1949 Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in times of war and again called on the member states not to recognize any of the Israeli measures.

Al-Shar' on U.S.-Sponsored 'Exchange of Views'

NC0912181194 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1722 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A new development in the Syrian stand came when Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' stated for the first time that there are no secret negotiations between Syria and Israel but there is a trend to exchange ideas under U.S. sponsorship and with U.S. participation, which could be announced tonight by the United States.

We move to the B'abda Palace where the meeting between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Syrian Minister Faruq al-Shar, which began at 1730, ended a short time ago. Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri joined the meeting a short time after it began.

Al-Shar' said in B'abda Palace that he carried a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to President al-Hirawi on the results of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent visit to the region. Here is what Minister al-Shar' had to say:

[Begin recording] [al-Shar'] I cannot talk about progress because [words indistinct] such progress so far.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Shar'] The new development from that visit is that there is a U.S. desire to have Washington sponsor contacts between the Syrian and Israeli sides in Washington to exchange ideas in order to pave the way for the resumption of the bilateral peace talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, some radios today reported that [words indistinct] between Syrian and Israeli officers with the participation of the Syrian and Israeli ambassadors in Washington. What can you say about this?

[Al-Shar'] No secret meetings, either in the past or in the future. There will naturally be no secret meetings between the Syrian and Israeli sides. We believe that secret meetings are an attempt by Israel to dodge the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

peace process, international legitimacy, and the Madrid framework that was agreed on. But as I said, Syria agreed to a proposal from the U.S. sponsor to hold an exchange of ideas between the Syrian and Israeli sides in Washington under U.S. sponsorship and participation. An announcement by the United States on this issue might be issued tonight.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, could the exchange of ideas turn into a resumption in one way or another of the negotiations [words indistinct]?

[Al-Shar'] We hope that this [words indistinct] would open the way for the resumption of the peace talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks as soon as possible. [end recording]

Minister al-Shar' added: We hope that the United States will exert every possible effort to get the peace process out of its prevailing serious stagnation.

TISHRIN Criticizes Peres' Oslo Speech

JN1112075494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0530 GMT 11 Dec 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] What progress has been made in the peace process falls far short of the efforts made to extricate the region from the maelstrom of wars and conflict, TISHRIN writes. In fact, whatever happened on the individual tracks in the peace process hardly amounts to peace, nor is it likely to produce peace, for all the attendant blare. If anything, this has helped Israel weasel out from the requirements of a just, comprehensive, and real peace.

Referring to Shim'on Peres lecture at the Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony in Oslo yesterday, TISHRIN adds: Singing the praises of peace, the return of Jews to Palestine, and the creation of a new Middle East, Peres chose to forget the right to repatriation of three million Palestinian refugees, who were forcibly expelled from their homeland by Israel. Peres might have acknowledged that the Palestinian people have paid the price for Europe's victimization of the Jews. The Middle East region was living in tranquility and peace and had all the potential for development and prosperity until Israel arrived with its war machine to threaten the sovereignty and land and future of the region's countries. Regarding Peres' notion of a new Middle East, this is merely an Israeli attempt to take over the Middle East and Arab assets, TISHRIN concludes.

Al-Asad Receives Lebanese President al-Hirawi

JN1112193794 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received His Excellency Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi in al-Rawdah Palace at 1300 today. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam attended. This was followed by a closed meeting between the two presidents. Later, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi joined the meeting.

Talks dealt with bilateral, regional, and global issues, and the two sides acquainted themselves with the results of the contacts Syria and Lebanon had held. They also held a profound discussion of the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. The two sides stressed the importance of continued cooperation and coordination for the benefit of both countries and the Arab nation in general.

They then reviewed the extent of the existing cultural cooperation in various areas. Both sides voiced satisfaction with the development of this cooperation, as well as their joint desire to expand it in the interest of both fraternal sides.

President Ilyas al-Hirawi expressed his appreciation for Syria and his excellency the president over Syria's continued support for Lebanon in all areas. Al-Asad then reiterated Syria's decision to extend all possible support to Lebanon. The talks were interrupted by a luncheon banquet given by his excellency the president.

Al-Shar' Beirut Statements on Peace Reported

JN1012074694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi yesterday received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

The meeting was attended by Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Al-Shar' conveyed to President al-Hirawi a message from his brother President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with the result of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent visit to Damascus.

Following the meeting, al-Shar' responded to reporters' questions, saying:

[Begin recording] [al-Shar'] I conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi in the presence of the Chamber of Deputies speaker, the prime minister, and brother Minister Buwayz. The message deals with the results of Christopher's visit to Damascus and his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad. The United States is attempting to narrow the existing gaps on the Syrian track and to remove the obstacles facing the peace process. We in Syria are convinced that these obstacles and hurdles are created by Israel. Of course we hope the United States will, in its capacity as a sponsor of the peace process, exert every possible effort to get the peace process out of its prevailing serious stagnation.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Minister, has there been any progress in this round?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Al-Shar'] I cannot talk about progress because no such progress has been made thus far.

[Correspondent] What new developments did the visit produce?

[Al-Shar'] The new development from that visit is that there is a U.S. desire to sponsor, and to participate in, contacts between the Syrian and Israeli sides in Washington to exchange ideas in order to pave the way for the resumption of the bilateral peace talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, some radios today reported that a secret meeting will be held between Syrian and Israeli officers with the participation of the Syrian and Israeli ambassadors in Washington. What can you say about this?

[Al-Shar'] No secret meetings, either in the past or in the future. There will naturally be no secret meetings between the Syrian and Israeli sides. We believe that secret meetings are an attempt by Israel to dodge the peace process, international legitimacy, and the Madrid framework that was agreed on. But as I said, Syria agreed to a proposal from the U.S. sponsor to hold an exchange of ideas between the Syrian and Israeli sides in Washington under U.S. sponsorship and participation.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, can you elaborate further? Could the exchange of ideas turn into a resumption in one way or another of the negotiations [words indistinct]?

[Al-Shar'] We hope that this exchange of ideas will open the way for the resumption of the peace talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks as soon as possible.

[Correspondent] Where does the Lebanese side fit into these [word indistinct] talks?

[Al-Shar'] These talks aim only at paving the way for the resumption of the peace negotiations.

[Correspondent] It has been reported that Secretary Christopher conveyed to Damascus a request to announce normalization in exchange for an Israeli statement accepting withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Is Syria prepared to make such a statement?

[Al-Shar'] This story, as reported by the media, is not accurate. Syria proposed a clear and plain equation; complete withdrawal in return for complete peace. Syria still adheres to that equation and Israel still refuses to accept it.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, do you think the current stagnation on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks can be ended?

[Al-Shar'] We hope this stagnation can be ended. Although I do not expect any progress, it is necessary to break the stagnation in order to open the road before the resumption of negotiations.

[Correspondent] You said that the meeting to exchange ideas will discuss the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Why does Lebanon not participate in that meeting??

[Al-Shar'] This subject is related to the complications on the Syrian track only. When these complications are solved, and we believe they can be solved, the way will be paved for the resumption of negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. [end recording]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Bangladesh

Home of Judge Bombed After Boycott Ruling

BK1112132394 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A High Court division bench today directed the boycotting opposition members of the parliament to attend the parliament session within three days of its commencement.

Delivering an unanimous judgment on a writ petition, the court comprising of Justice Qazi Shafiuddin Ahmad and Justice Qazi A.K. Munawaruddin declared that the continuous absence of the opposition members in order to realize their demand for a caretaker government is illegal, unconstitutional and unwarranted.

[Hong AFP in English at 1147 GMT on 11 December in a similar report adds: "Later Sunday [11 December] one man was seriously injured when unidentified assailants hurled five bombs at Munawaruddin's house, although the judge said he was unhurt, adding the attackers were possibly an aggrieved "party or an individual."]

The writ petition was filed by Advocate Anwar Hussain Khan on which the court had issued a ruling on 28 June in which Sheikh Hasina, opposition leader in parliament; Barrister Moudud Ahmad, parliamentary party leader of the Jatiya Party; and Maulana Matiur Rahman Nizami, parliamentary party leader of the Jamaat-i-Islami; were asked to explain why they should not be directed to attend the parliament session.

Political Crisis 'Deepens'; Martial Law 'Unlikely'

BK1212083794 Hong Kong AFP in English 0717 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, Dec 12 (AFP)—As Bangladesh's national political crisis deepened following a court order to opposition lawmakers to end a boycott of parliament, Attorney General Aminul Huq warned the the use of martial law tactics here in the past had ruined the country.

On Sunday [11 December], a high court bench ruled that the opposition's nine-month-long boycott was unconstitutional, and one of the judge's homes was bombed later in the day.

With direct or indirect military rule justified here from 1975 to 1990 to protect stability and avert violent confrontations, Huq implied that martial law had done more harm than good.

Some observers have speculated that if the political situation worsens, the military could once again step in to take control "to enforce peace". But most analysts say that the use of martial law is extremely unlikely.

"Democracy had been killed slowly during the rule of different martial law administrators," Huq said Sunday. Speaking at a seminar, Huq was quoted by the United News of Bangladesh as saying: "Martial law has ruined the country, destroyed human and moral values and respect for democratic norms.

Two judges on the high court on Sunday ordered opposition MPs to attend parliament's next session, and said that an ongoing boycott was "unconstitutional". The opposition has refused to attend legislative sessions since March to press demands for elections under a neutral caretaker government. Lawyer Anwar Hossain Khan asked the court in June to rule that legislators who participated in the protest action had violated pledges made to adequately represent constituents' interests.

The case is important because it is unclear whether the legislators will recognize the court's authority to rule on the boycott.

While no link has yet been established between the ruling and the hurling of five bombs later Sunday at the home of Judge Kazi A.T. Monwarddin, there are other signs that the opposition is unlikely to follow the order to return to parliament.

The bombs seriously injured one man, but the judge himself was not hurt in the attack.

The case will also determine whether the judiciary will succeed in peacefully outlining the separation of powers among the three branches of government.

Opposition leaders have already criticised the court's ruling and are scheduled to appeal Monday for a stay of the order to return to the legislature. Opposition figures also questioned the impartiality of Judge Monwarddin, who was formerly a district chief in Zia's ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

However, Deputy House Leader Badruddoza Chowdhury appealed to his rivals to join the next session of parliament and to respect the rulings of the "independent judiciary."

The three major parties opposed to the ruling BNP have warned that 153 MPs would resign from parliament on December 28 unless Zia agrees to a constitutional amendment guaranteeing fair elections under a caretaker administration.

Prime Minister Leaves for ICO Summit

BK1212035794 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur Rahman left Dhaka early this morning for Casablanca to take part in the two-day seventh Islamic summit conference. The summit begins in the Moroccan city tomorrow. Begum Ziaur Rahman will reiterate Bangladesh's principled position at the summit to activate the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to face the political, economic, social, and cultural challenges before the 52-nation organization. Among political

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

issues, the prime minister will stress the country's position on Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine, and the Middle East. She will call for greater cooperation among the ICO member-countries to face the challenges before them and the need for taking concrete steps for the establishment of an Islamic common market as was proposed by shaheed [martyr] President Ziaur Rahman at the third ICO summit at Taif in Saudi Arabia. At the summit, Begum Ziaur Rahman is expected to underline the need for further upgrading technical and vocational training in the ICO countries for common benefit of the member-countries and for the advancement of the people of the ICO countries. In this context, she is expected to call on other ICO countries to make the Islamic Center for Technical and Vocational Training and Research, ICTVTR, strong and financially viable center.

Bangladesh will play an active, constructive, and pragmatic role at the summit which is taking place at a crucial juncture for the Islamic ummah [community]. Bangladesh will reiterate its position on the question of Muslim minority in non-Muslim countries, growing attacks on Islam, and persecution of Muslims in various parts of the world, and also on the question of Palestine and Cyprus. On social and cultural issues, Bangladesh will focus on the two upcoming world summits for the social development to be held in Copenhagen and the fourth world conference on women in Beijing and will call upon the ICO countries to make concrete contributions at the two summits. The summit which commemorates the 25th anniversary of the founding of the ICO will deliberate on all international issues, particularly those of concern to Muslim ummah. [passage omitted]

India

Rao Reportedly Urged To Have Heart Bypass Surgery

BK0912044094 Hong Kong AFP in English 0423 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Dec 9 (AFP)—Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has been advised to undergo heart bypass surgery and may be suffering from emphysema, the TIMES OF INDIA newspaper reported Friday [9 December].

The respected daily, quoting "reasonably reliable sources," said doctors had asked the 73-year-old Rao to undergo bypass surgery in the United States in three months "because of a deterioration in the condition of his arteries."

It added in the front-page report that the prime minister "is reportedly suffering from emphysema."

Vithal Gadgil, spokesman for the ruling Congress (I) party, declined to confirm or deny the TIMES report. Gadgil said Rao, who is also the Congress president, did not attend a meeting of the party's parliamentary wing here Wednesday "because ... he was unwell. What is the nature of the illness, I don't know," Gadgil told AFP.

The Times said the state of Rao's health was not a cause for alarm.

"We have been assured by our sources, both medical as well as political, that there is no cause for undue anxiety about the state of the prime minister's health," it said.

But it added that medical specialists had told Rao "not to spend more than an hour and a half to attend to official work and not to put in more than one or two public appearances in a day to avoid overexertion."

Rao recently undertook a hectic tour of two of India's largest states which went for staggered elections described as the most crucial test for the prime minister since he took office in June 1991.

The TIMES said Rao's lung problem had been bothering him for the past year and "may have worsened during the pressures of his recent electioneering."

Emphysema, in its advanced stages, causes the lungs to lose their elasticity and remain in an inflated position, thereby lowering their capacity to carry oxygen to the heart.

Rao was on the verge of political retirement when he agreed to become prime minister after the Congress victory in the 1991 elections during which former premier Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated.

State Election Results In; New Governments Formed

'Stage' Set for Changes

BK1012164394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The stage is now set for the formation of new governments in the four states that went to the polls. A Telugu Desam Party [TDP] government will assume office in Andhra Pradesh on Monday [12 December] and a Janata Dal government in Karnataka tomorrow. In Andhra Pradesh, the Telugu Desam legislature party is meeting in Hyderabad tomorrow to formally elect Mr. N.T. Rama Rao as its leader. In Bangalore, senior leaders of the Janata Dal, Mr. Biju Patnaik and Mr. Ira Cherian, will supervise tomorrow's election of the leader of the state legislature party. Mr. H.D. Devegowda is the main contender for the post, but the candidature of other leaders, like Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde, cannot be ruled out. The swearing in will take place tomorrow afternoon. The incumbent chief ministers in the two states, Mr. K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy and Mr. Veerappa Moily, have resigned but have been asked by the governors to continue in office till the swearing in of new governments.

The prime minister has congratulated Mr. N.T. Rama Rao and Mr. H.D. Devegowda on their parties' victory

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

in the assembly elections and has assured them of the center's full cooperation. Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, who is going to be the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh for the third time, has announced that he will impose total prohibition, excluding toddy, in the state within half an hour of the swearing in of the TDP government on Monday. The Telegu Desam Party is coming to power with an unprecedented majority, winning 219 seats so far. In the 1985 elections, the party secured 202 seats, while in 1983, it got 198. Its promise to provide rice at two rupees a kg appears to have caught the imagination of poorer sections. A social movement demanding total prohibition in the state, in which women participated in large numbers, also came to the help of the party. The Congress-I, which got 180 seats in 1989, suffered badly this time because of many reasons. One of them was its failure to remain united while in power, resulting in frequent changes of state leadership.

Only one result is remaining in Karnataka. Of the 223 [results] declared so far, the Janata Dal has secured a simple majority by bagging 114 seats. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has secured 40 seats, followed by the Congress-I with 36 seats. The KCP [Karnataka Congress Party] bagged 10 seats, and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] and the BSP [Bahujan Samaj Party] one seat each. Twenty-one seats have gone to independents. While the Janata Dal bounced back to power from 24 seats in 1989 to 114 now, the BJP improved its position impressively from four seats to 40 to become the main opposition. Frequent changes of chief ministers and internal bickerings are considered the main reasons for the defeat of the Congress-I. Observers feel that the Hubli Idgah Maidan [Muslim prayer ground] incident and the introduction of Urdu news bulletin on Bangalore Doordarshan [television] also contributed to the poll outcome.

In Sikkim, the newly elected MLA's [Members of Legislative Assembly] of the Sikkim Democratic Front are meeting in Namchi tonight to elect their leader. The chief minister, Mr. Sanchaman Limbu, has resigned but has been asked by the governor to continue in office till the new government comes in. With all the 32 results declared, the Sikkim Democratic Front has got 19, the SSP [Sikkim Sangram Parishad] 10; Congress-I, two; and independent, one. The people of Sikkim have given a clear mandate in favor of the one year nine months old Sikkim Democratic Front led by the policeman turned politician, Mr. Pawan Kumar Chamling. Industry minister in the cabinet of Mr. Bhandari, Mr. Chamling was expelled from the Sikkim Sangram Parishad in 1992. Later, he formed the party in 1993 and led a movement against the rule of Mr. Bhandari, demanding the implementation of the Mandal Commission report [on job reservations] in the state.

Goa is heading for a hung assembly. At the end of counting in 36 constituencies, Congress-I and the MGP [Maharashtra Gomantak Party]-BJP alliance are locked with 15 seats each. It is clear that even if the four more results go to either side, they will not get an absolute majority. The independents and the newly formed regional party—the United Goans Democratic Party—are bound to play a decisive role in the formation of the new government. [passage omitted]

Four Congress-I MP's from Orissa have termed the outcome of the assembly elections as a temporary phenomenon. In a joint statement in New Delhi, they pledged their solidarity with prime minister and said under his leadership, the country has become economically strong and politically stable. The signatories to the statement are Dr. Kripasindhu Roy, Mr. Anaricharan Das, Mr. Subhash Chandra Naik, and Mr. Sharad Patnaik.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has demanded that the Narasimha Rao government should seek a fresh mandate in the light of the verdict in the assembly elections. The party leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, said elections to the Lok Sabha should be held along with assembly elections in six states next February. He said results of the just-concluded elections are not only of local significance but are influenced by various national factors. The BJP Central Parliamentary Board met in New Delhi today to take stock of the election results.

The Janata Dal leader, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, said it shows that the National Front-left parties combine is emerging as an alternative to the Congress-I.

The CPI-M general secretary, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet, said the outcome is a clear verdict against the economic policies of the center. The Samata Party leader, Mr. Harikishore Singh, hailed the Janata Dal victory in Karnataka and said this vindicates their stand on reviving the traditions of the Janata Dal parivar [family].

The Communist Party of India said the defeat of the Congress in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka can now open up new possibilities at the national level. The Forward Bloc general secretary, Mr. Chitta Basu, said people have given their verdict against the new economic and industrial policies of the central government. The Congress-S general secretary, Mr. K.P. Unnikrishan, said the election results are a serious reflection on the failure of all national parties to mobilize people on the basis of a coherent policy framework.

Opposition To Lead 3 States

BK1112163094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. H. D. Devegowda is to be the new chief minister of Karnataka. He was elected the leader of the Janata legislature party at its meeting in Bangalore this afternoon. Mr. J.H. Patel was elected the deputy leader. The Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai; the central observers, Mr. Biju Patnaik and Mr. Ira Cherian; and Mr. Rama Krishna Hegde attended the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

meeting of the newly elected legislators. Mr. Devigowda is being sworn in as the chief minister in a short while from now.

In Andhra Pradesh, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao has been elected the leader of the Telugu Desam legislature party. He will assume office of the chief minister for the third time at a function in the Lalbahadur Shastri stadium in Hyderabad tomorrow.

In Sikkim, the governor has invited the Sikkim Democratic Front leader, Mr. Pawan Kumar Chamling, to form the new government. The swearing-in will take place tomorrow. Mr. Chamling has said his ministry will have 13 members giving representation to various sections.

In Goa, the Congress-I, which has emerged as the single largest party in the 40-member house, will stake its claim to form the government. This has been stated by the PCCI [Pradesh, State Congress Committee-I] president, Mrs. Niramala Sawant, in Panaji. She said central observers, Mr. G.K. Moopanar and Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, will attend the CLP [Central Legislature Party] meeting which will take place within the next two days. The three United Goan Democratic Party members and the three independents are expected to play a decisive role in the ministry formation. One of the independents is the rebel Congress-I candidate.

Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim Ministers Sworn In

BK1212102194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 12 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. N.T. Rama Rao has been sworn in as the new chief minister of Andhra Pradesh. The oath of office and secrecy was administered by the governor, Mr. Krishnakant, at a colorful ceremony at the spacious Lal Bahadur Stadium in Hyderabad at noon today. Our Hyderabad correspondent, Shujat Ali, reports:

[Begin Shujat Ali recording] Exactly at 1201, the chief minister-elect, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, took the oath of office and secrecy by the state governor, Mr. Krishnakant, in a public dais at the spacious Lal Bahadur Stadium. Immediately after taking the oath, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao announced that except tari [toddy] total prohibition [of alcoholic beverages] will be introduced with immediate effect, which is one of his prominent election promises. The entire Lal Bahadur Stadium was giving a festive look as thousands of people apart from the chief minister of Orissa, Mr. Biju Patnaik; Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Ms. Jayalalitha; and CPM [Communist Party of India-Marxist] leader, Mr. Harkishan Surjit attended the function. [end recording]

Six cabinet ministers and two ministers of state also took the oaths of office along with Mr. Rama Rao. The cabinet ministers are Mr. (N. Chandra Babu Naidu), Mr. (C. Ashok Gajapati Raju), Mr. D.B. Mohan Reddy, Mr. (Peda Rattiya), Mr. P. Indira Reddy, and Mr. (M. Narasimha Lu). The ministers of state are (Mr. Kotupalli Subba Raidu), and Mr. (Pranay Bhaskar). This is the third time that Mr. Rama Rao is assuming the office of chief minister.

Meanwhile, nine TDP [Telugu Desam Party] workers on their way to attend the swearing-in ceremony were killed when their jeep fell into a ditch near Anasagar in Mahbubnagar District early today. Four others, including the surpanch [village headman] of Rampur village of (Khudappa) District, were injured in the mishap.

In Sikkim, a 13-member ministry headed by Mr. Pawan Kumar Chamling, assumed office today. At an impressive function, the governor, Mr. P. Shiva Shankar, administered the oaths of office and secrecy to the new chief minister and 12 other ministers of cabinet rank at Raj Bhavan in Gangtok. Among those who attended the functions were four former chief ministers, Mr. (Kajal Hendoop Dorjee), Mr. N.D. Bhandari, Mr. B.B. Guru, and Mr. S.M. Limbu. The portfolios of the new ministers are likely to be announced later today.

In Goa, the process of selecting the new Congress-I legislature party leader is on. The central Congress-I observers, Mr. G.K. Moopanar, and Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, and Mr. Janardhana Poojary, and Mr. S.S. Ahluwalia are meeting the Comgress-I MLA's [Members of Legisalative Assembly] individually to decide the leadership issue at Panaji. Meanwhile, the state BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. (Sri Padnaik), told newsmen that his party will prefer to sit in opposition rather than forming the government with the help of the Independents or the Untied Goans Democratic Party [UGDP]. The MGP [Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party]) legislature party is to meet this evening. The party position in the state is Congress-I—18, Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party—12, BJP - four; UGDP—three, and Independents—three.

Congress-I Rules Out Snap Poll

BK1112084894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Congress-I has ruled out a snap poll for the Lok Sabha. The party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, has said that there is neither a need, nor a verdict in the assembly polls against the central government. Briefing reporters after the Congress-I Working Committee [CWC] meeting in New Delhi last night, he said the question did not come up for discussion.

In a resolution, the Working Committee accepted the verdict of the people in the assembly elections with humility. It said the party will engage in an earnest effort to draw appropriate lessons and also take all corrective measures to regain the confidence of the people. The CWC was of the view that it will not be correct to interpret the results as a rejection of the policies and programs initiated by the Congress-I government since it

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

came to power in 1991. It pointed out that the electoral verdict in the last three years had been a mixed one. The CWC said it will unitedly carry out the well thought-out policies of the party under the leadership of Mr. Narasimha Rao. Mr. Gadgil said the CWC could only draw some tentative conclusions on the disappointing performance of the Congress-I. He declined to give the details, saying that a meaningful analysis is yet to be carried out. The Working Committee, he said, will meet again on the 14th and 25th to take stock of the matter and to chalk out the Congress-I strategy for the forthcoming assembly elections [in five states in February].

Faith in Rao Leadership Reaffirmed

BK1012100094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Executive Committee of the Congress-I Parliamentary Party in a resolution has said that it humbly accepts the verdict of elections in four states. It also expressed fuli faith in the leadership of the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and resolved to work unitedly for the uplift of the weaker sections, the poor and the downtrodden. The executive also expressed confidence that the policies and programs pursued by the Congress-I under the leadership of Mr. Narasimha Rao will enable the country to march proudly in the present competitive world. The executive was of the view that in the latest polls, people were moved primarily by local considerations.

The Congress-I Working Committee is meeting in New Delhi tonight to take stock of the situation following the outcome of the assembly elections in four states. The meeting was originally scheduled to be held on Wednesday [14 December].

Tasks Outlined for New Leaders

BK1212044994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Dec 94

[Commentary by S.C. Bhatt]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] With commendable speed, the process of formation of new governments in the states which lately went to the polls has been taken in hand. In Karnataka, contrary to media speculation, Mr. H.D. Devegowda was chosen leader of the newly elected Janata Dal members of the state assembly without any difficulty and sworn in as the chief minister in Bangalore yesterday. In Hyderabad, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, who has been returned to power with a record majority, will take oath of office today. In Gangtok, Mr. Pawan Chamling, wrongly described by some media as a dark horse, is being sworn in as Sikkim's chief minister today. Only in Goa, no party has emerged with a clear majority and the process of formation of government may take a couple of days as the dust settles down.

The tasks before the new governments is fairly well cut out. Neither NTR [N.T. Rama Rao], as he is popularly known, nor his Telugu Desam Party are new to power. He knows the ropes as well as anyone else. He also knows that having been elected with such a huge majority, people have certain expectations and aspirations. These have to be fulfilled and that is no easy task. Some of his promises were described as populist by his detractors. It is up to him to translate the promises into reality and prove the critics wrong. He has to ponder why after more than six years in office his party was defeated in 1989. Those factors must be carefully eliminated. The prime minister has assured him of the Center's cooperation in his party's rule. There was no reason to believe that the assurance is not well-meant.

Likewise, the Janata Dal in Karnataka is also not new to the Vidhan Sabha [Legislative Assembly] secretariat, but the party had lost rather badly in the last assembly elections. The people of Karnataka have again reposed their faith in Mr. Devegowda's party. He has to rise to their expectations and give the state a clean and efficient administration responding to the needs of the people. The same task awaits NTR in Andhra Pradesh.

In Gangtok, one of India's smaller states, too, the people expect the Sikkim Democratic Front to deliver and not commit the mistakes of the past. Mr. Pawan Chamling is an experienced leader who knows his state well. The confusion in Goa should also end soon and a solution which would meet the people's aspirations should emerge. People everywhere are anxiously looking for stable and just governments led by competent and devoted people. It is this mandate that should guide the new rulers.

Voters Seen as 'Decisive'

BK1012083794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Dec 94

[Commentary by A.J. Philip]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The results of the elections to four state assemblies show that the voters were quite decisive. They did not want the states to land in any political uncertainty. Though opinion polls and media reports had indicated a victory for the Telugu Desam in Andhra Pradesh and the Janata Dal in Karnataka, their margins of victory in these states have come as a surprise. In Andhra Pradesh, it is a landslide victory for the Telugu Desam and its allies. Similarly in Karnataka, it is certain that the Janata Dal will come to power on its own. The only state where the Congress has been able to do reasonably well is in Goa where it is neck and neck with the MGP [Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party]-BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]-Shiv Sena combine.

A common feature of these elections is the apathy of the electorate toward the party in power and their desire for a change, except in Goa. Thus, the choice of the electorate fell on the Telugu Desam in Andhra Pradesh and the Janata Dal in Karnataka. For the two parties, it is not the first time that they are coming to power in the states.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

While there was a massive upsurge for Mr. N.T. Rama Rao's party, what facilitated an easy victory for the Janata Dal in Karnataka was the contest of the Karnataka Congress Party founded by Mr. S. Bangarappa. It divided the Congress votes in one constituency after another.

Among the four states, the desire for a change was more pronounced in Sikkim where a new party—the Sikkim Democratic Front [SDF]—gained absolute majority, winning 18 seats in a house of 32. Obviously, the sustained grass-roots campaign that the SDF chief, Mr. Pawan Kumar Chamling, launched since he parted company with the former chief minister, Mr. Nar Bahadur Bhandari, has stood him in good stead. It is no surprise that the voters did not distiguish the Congress-I from the Sikkim Sangram Parishad as the chief minister, Mr. Sanchaman Limbu, had joined the party only a few months back.

If the results mean a debacle for the Congress, the performance of the BJP, which had high hopes in these elections, was no better.

Businessmen on 'Rout' of Congress-I

BK1012095294 Hong Kong AFP in English 0802 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bombay, Dec 10 (AFP)—The defeat of India's ruling party in crucial state elections has set off alarm bells in industry, but business leaders expressed hope Saturday [10 December] it would not slow down the three-year-old economic reforms.

Stockbrokers and business groups warned, however, that the Congress (I) party's rout in the southern states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh could affect Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Congress president.

"I see no threat to the Congress government (in New Delhi)," said Madan Gopal Madani, chief of the powerful Brokers' Forum at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), the country's biggest bourse.

"But some strains will be evident in the party as Rao made the elections a virtual referendum (on his leadership)," he said, warning that share prices could tumble at the BSE when it reopens on Monday.

The Congress was mauled by the opposition in the two southern states in staggered polls held between November 26 and December 5. The Congress had ruled both states, considered party strongholds, since 1989.

Rao, 73, had hectically toured the region and demanded a vote of support for the sweeping economic liberalisation he launched in June 1991 after taking power.

"The Congress did not lose because of its economic reforms," said Damani. "I do not forsee a reversal of the reforms. But they will not accelerate either."

Opposition parties claimed that the unpopularity of the reforms was the main cause of the Congress' election debacle.

"The government failed to see the social impact of the reforms," said communist politician Harkishan Singh Surjeet. "They did not see the inflation, the soaring prices and the effects of the withdrawal of subsidies."

"The government will have to rethink its economic policies," added Krishan Lal Sharma, spokesman of the right-wing Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People's Party), the main opposition in parliament.

Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee countered: "This will not have any effect on economic reforms." But he admitted the ruling party faced a "crisis."

S. Subramaniam of the stock brokerage Hoare Govett, Asia, said, "Rao is likely to face problems in the party in the next few days."

"The only positive factor is there is no frontline leader to challenge him now," he said. "The reforms will slow down substantially," Subramaniam said, adding: "I hope I am wrong."

Subramaniam said international fund managers had been cold towards India in the past few weeks, awaiting the election results. "There will be a slowdown in their buying of Indian shares for two or three months," he said.

But Nritya Krishna Goel, chairman of the Federation of Indian Export Organizations, said he was confident the economic reforms, which have won international acclaim, would continue. "The defeat of the Congress is not the result of the reform process but local issues such as price rises, bad administration, atrocities against Moslems and unemployment," he said.

"But the problem is the Congress might get scared that people are unhappy with the reform process," he said.

"The reform process will continue because they are irreversible," added Nani Palkhivala, chairman of the Associated Cement Co., India's largest cement firm.

"Prime Minister Rao will continue until the end of his term," he said. "But the results will certainly affect the next parliamentary elections due in 1996."

Industrialists warned that the Congress, in a desperate bid to regain its popularity, might go in for populist measures that could torpedo the need for fiscal discipline.

Analysis: Defeats 'Breathtaking'

BK1112105194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Dec 94

["Analysis" of outcome of state assembly elections by political analyst Chandan Mitra]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Although not entirely unexpected, the scale of the Congress-I's defeat in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Sikkim has been breathtaking. Virtually nobody had expected the Telugu Desam Party [TDP] to register such a landslide victory and Mr. N.T. Rama Rao's claim that he would win 227 seats was dismissed as typical bravado, but the results proved he was the best astrologer, the TDP having come very close to its prediction.

In Karnataka the Congress-I's ouster from power was predicted by most observers, although they feared that the result would be a hung assembly with the Janata Dal [JD] emerging as the largest single party. Few had expected JD to win an outright majority and fewer still had though that the Congress-I would be reduced to the third place after the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP].

Sikkim, too, has produced a surprise. The electorate has rejected both Congress-I and SSP [Sikkim Sangram Parishad] and opted for the dark horse—Sikkim Development Front led by Mr. Bhandari's staunch critic, Mr. Chamling. The Goa result is still too close to call.

There is no doubt that anti-establishment wave has swept across states as far removed and diametrically different as Sikkim and Andhra Pradesh. The Congress-I, being the ruling party, has naturally suffered heavily as a result of the anti-establishment mood. Last year the BJP had similarly been at the receiving end of voters dissatisfaction in three out of four North Indian states. This time a combination of populism and regional sentiments appears to have added to the Congress-I's inherent disadvantages. Groupism in the ruling party also took its toll, both in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The unseemly factional squabbles over the last years may have rocked the Congress-I of its main plank, namely stability. Rebels were present in all parties to some degree, but the absence of towering personalities in the Congress-I at the state level appears to have damaged the party's reelection prospects. The Congress-I did not have state leaders to match the appeal of N.T. Rama Rao or Devegowda and Rama Krishna Hegde.

Any assessment of the results would be incomplete without reference to the environment created by the chief election commissioner, Mr T.N. Seshan. By cracking down on poll expenses and lavish campaigning, the Election Commission forced candidates to rely on door-to-door canvassing.

Iran

Yazdi Sermon on Choosing the Source of Emulation

LD0912201794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1145 GMT 9 Dec 94

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Yazdi, head of the judiciary, in Tehran on 9 December—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] In the first instance, I deem it necessary to praise the people of our country, particularly the people of Tehran and Qom, who showed their respect for His Eminence, the leader of the jurisconsults and mujtahids, Grand Ayatollah [Mohammad 'Ali] Araki, during the funeral services. [passage omitted]

Whatever the reason for our people attending the funeral services, their respect shows a noble quality that exists in our people and the enemy has not yet understood, or does not want to understand, and that is the deep relation which exists between our people and their eminent scholars, theological schools, and in fact the holy religion of Islam. [passage omitted]

Second, it was natural that the Shiite community would be wondering about who to choose as a marja' [source of emulation]. The people need a light that shows them the path. With the passing away of Grand Ayatollah Araki, and Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani a year ago, we have lost the last generation of grand scholars within the space of a year.

Now is the turn of the next generation, the generation who have always been present at theological schools and have received education from those great scholars. They have learned both the theory and practice of the work. It was natural for the people to be wondering about who they should finally turn to.

The most qualified to help people [choose] are those who have always guided the society. Those who guide people in theological schools in big cities. The persons whom our people know them well. The two esteemed societies, the Qom Theological Lecturers Association and the Militant Clergy Association, whose members people of our country know well, are the best symbol of such authority, as our late imam [Khomeyni], may he be admitted to God's paradise, toward the end of his life also mentioned. [passage omitted]

In practical religious guides [resaleh ha-ye 'amaliyye] we have all read that there are three ways for the selection [of the marja']. One is that the person reaches the level of ijtihad, or other relevant sciences, to be able to judge for himself; or two experts who are just and qualified explain the issues to him; or to have an effective scholarly reputation [shohrat-e mofid-e lel- 'elm]. Now for those two just and qualified persons we have two much stronger and recognized legal sources, among each of them there are many characters and scholarly experts. They are Militant Clergy Association and the Qom Theological Lecturers Association.

I thank them especially since they, through assessments, discussions and exchanges of view, reached a conclusion and placed a list [of suitable candidates] after their research at the disposal of the people and rescued Shiite society from confusion. And especially since we see the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

auspicious name of the esteemed leader of the revolution, His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Khamene'i [crowd chants: "God's peace and benedictions be upon Muhammad and his scion"] in this list.]

And the testimony of these two judicial dignified bodies is the same as the testimony of dozens of ordinary people. Again, for my part, I would like to thank these two honorable societies, that entered the scene at this crucial stage when the enemy was seeking to exploit the situation, for their timely actions. They clearly showed the way and clarified the issue for the people. [Crowd chants in support: "God is great"]

Please, let me continue. I feel it is necessary [crowd interrupts with chants: "Khamene'i is the imam! He is the leader of Shiites!"] Yes, this is the case. Please, allow me to go on. I feel it is necessary—from an ethical point of view—to thank the honorable Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Ahmad Khomeyni who undertook a timely and appropriate step. He presented the home [beyt] of his eminence the imam [Khomeyni] in Qom to the guardian and marja' [Khamene'i]. In other words, the home in Qom that was the center of guidance, fatwa, and teaching for the Islamic ummah and the center of the Islamic revolution was presented to him [Khamene'i]. And as you know—you may have seen it in the press—during a ceremony, it was handed over to the secretary of the office of the honorable guardian and marja'. This was a very good, timely, and appropriate deed which was carried out by him. During this period, after his eminence the imam passed away, he [Ahmad Khomeyni] has truly acted like an imam. He has supported the revolution with appropriate and correct stances. His latest deed is worthy of praise. [passage omitted]

One point needs to be mentioned here: paying attention to the system of guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult ruling the nation. In other words, the Islamic system that rules in this country is based on the guardianship of the jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih]. In our constitution, one of the most fundamental principles—which cannot be reviewed or changed until Resurrection Day—is the principle of the guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult.

One should pay full attention to the fact that the legitimacy of the Islamic government in this country and the special position which Islam has acquired throughout the world is dependent on this issue. Those who are indifferent toward this issue or who have other views—it is natural that they should pay greater attention to it.

Another point is, as I have said before, if we wish to make one side of the scales heavier than the other, we cannot add to the weight of the desired side by taking away from the other side [as heard]. It is by adding to the desired side that we can make it heavier. Under these sensitive conditions, individuals, characters, personalities, those who write or those who have podiums at their disposal, those who have access to vast gatherings should be very careful never to use their words or their pen by concentrating on the negative sides. This is a mistake to speak about negative aspects, that this person or that person is such and such.

It is your right to speak about the positive points, about the main attributes, about strong features of your favorite person or the person you have selected. However, it is definitely wrong from a religious point of view to say or write certain things which are of a negative character about other ulema of Islam. In certain cases such utterances could also lead to legal prosecution. Therefore, one should pay full attention to this matter.

Under such conditions, it is up to the people to choose their marja' on the basis of the religious principles which are at their disposal; and they have made their choice or will make their choice. This problem has also been solved, may God be praised for His bounties.

Another issue which I must refer to here—perhaps it may not be proper for me to pay attention to such minor details—is that such and such a person is older, such and such a person is senior in age, such and such a person has not written a resala [theological treatise, usually regarded as credential for being a mujtahid or source of emulation] and the other person has written a resala. Here I must say one word, according to religious [shar'iah] conditions [milak], none of these things is a condition.

Once in the past I was talking to a gentleman when there was a similar situation. In the case of his eminence the imam [Khomeyni], may he be admitted to God's paradise, I asked this gentleman: What is the reason that you prefer such and such a person [to Khomeyni]? He answered: He is very friendly, he has frindly manners. I said: It is very strange that you should regard being friendly or having friendly manners as a religious condition, and completely ignore other conditions. Yes, being friendly and having friendly manners is a Islamic moral virtue; but this is not a condition.

Now we see that although certain individuals possess all conditions [for being a marja'], they [those who wish to reject them] raise the issue of, for instance, not having written a resala or this thing and that thing [as heard]. Gradually, these issues too will be solved, God willing, and there will be no room left for argument.

Although my time is short and I have a number of other issues, however I thought to myself for a while that this issue should be raised. Once again, I apologize to eminent ulema and eminent personalities, but I raise this issue so that it may be debated in the religious seminaries. I raise it so that scholars may think about it. Today Islam is in a new situation when day by day it is faced with new issues and there is need for new research and study; there is need for scrutiny; there is need for a review. It is not enough to limit ourselves to former issues. At times, even former issues have not been properly investigated. Therefore, I raise the issue only in view of the fact that it should be discussed; so that it may be more debated in the religious seminaries.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Emulation is an issue whose principles are well-known. A fully qualified faqih is chosen and he becomes a source of emulation. It means that one asks him about religious issues. He also says that on the basis of his reason and his understanding, in the famous sentence "This is what comes to me as my view [zanni] and what is my view is a proof to me and to those who emulate me." [last sentence in Arabic]

Well, this is sufficient. One asks him about God's laws and he answers, and one acts on the basis of his views. It is nothing more. What is the position of the faqih here? Here the faqih is one who understands, one who speculates, one who reaches an opinion, one who is a mujtahid. He is one who tries, who comes to an understanding, who makes a deduction, and who comes to an understanding of the minor issues by referring to major issues [as heard: part of the duty of the source of emulation is ijtihad which means he has to express an opinion on religious matters, and part of his duty is qiyas, meaning that he should deduce from the main principles set out in the shari'ah what the ruling should be on minor issues that have not been specified] It is nothing more.

However, there is another issue; namely that the esteemed faqihs in addition to forming an opinion, they are also guardians [volat]. They have the prerogative to intervene and take part in affairs of the governance. Here there is a question, whether their involvement is limited to secondary [hesbiyya] affairs or not. Do they have the right to get involved in the issues of governance in the same way that any just believer can also get involved, or in the words of the esteemed scholars, even if there was not a just believer it could be carried out by a corrupt [fasiq] believer; and even if there was not a corrupt believer, at times it could even be carried out by a tyrant or an unbeliever. It means that there are certain issues where action is required.

Let me give you a simple example. There may be a certain patient somewhere who should be taken to hospital. The desired situation is that this patient is taken to hospital. Who should take him? In the first instance, it should be his family or his relatives. If there was no such person, then anyone who was made aware of this and saw him [should take him to hospital]. If he [who takes him] is a believer and a just man that is better; but if there were no just believers then a corrupt individual would do. If there was no such person, another person and another person, until we come to a tyrannical infidel. He should also take the patient to hospital. Such issues are called secondary issues. In such issues it is appropriate for any person to carry them out. Of course, the best case is that those who carry out these tasks have the qualifications for performing them.

Are the esteemed faqihs guardians to the degree of governance in the secondary issues, or not. There has been a great deal of debate over this. This is not a new issue. This is one of the issues that has been greatly debated in the religious seminaries. Some leading ulema accept the first view [that the sources of emulation engage in government only as secondary agents in the absence of the hidden imam], some accept the second view [that governance is their right as vice regents of the hidden imam].

His eminence the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise, said that the faqih has the power of guardianship and he occupies the place of the [hidden] imam and he enjoys all the prerogatives of the immaculate imam, may God hasten his noble advent. In other words, the faqih can also be in charge of all the affairs which the immaculate imam was in charge of. Now, some people have certain doubts about the primary jihad or the Friday prayers [some leading clerics believe that only the hidden imam has the right to declare a jihad, they also believe that in the absence of the hidden imam there should not be any congregational Friday prayers, because the hidden imam is the only true prayer leader]. Others believe in the necessity of the primary jihad and the necessity of Friday prayers; while others believe that during his absence the hidden imam has left the reins of the affairs in the hands of the people so that they can do whatever they wish to do.

Here, I am not interested in a theological debate and I am not trying to say which of these two views is correct.

We come forward a little. If our faqihs are guardians and have the right to intervene in the affairs, is there not a difference between a time when the Islamic government has been declared with the Islamic ruler enjoying protected authority—as it is in our time—and a time when there are limitations on Islamic rule, the faqihs can't do anything and tyrants rule? In short at a time when tyrants are sovereign, Islam has no rule and faqihs are among the people, they [faqihs] have, according to their power—apart from the act of deduction and passing fatwas—the right to intervene in state affairs, even passing judgements, carrying out penalties, intervention in the affair of the absentees and minors, endowments and such like. As we know in the more recent times, some of the great influential faqihs, despite the rule of tyrants intervened in state affairs and had guardianship. This was correct and they should have had it.

Now, when an Islamic government is present and Islam is sovereign, and I have interpreted this before, a subjugated Islam became a sovereign Islam, an Islam which was subjugated became sovereign, as it is today and thank God for this blessing. In such a situation, do all faqihs have the right of guardianship and intervention in the affairs of the state? A faqih, in some town, could say: I am a faqih, I make deductions, I am a jurisconsult, this is my opinion and I want to judge according to my own opinion and I say, for example, that blood-money should be like this or that, or that punishments should be carried out this way or that way. Can he do this? He can't do this.

At a time when the rule of Islam has been declared and a jurisconsult controls the affairs, other faqihs cannot intervene in state affairs. In other words they cannot

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

intervene in state decrees. This is neither a new debate nor a very important one. It might have even been mentioned in fatwas. Yes, I agree that this is not a new debate. But taking these two precepts into consideration, I want to say that a new debate has to be studied and discussed and that is: Are the religious taxes which are given to the imam—at the time and the presence of the infallible imam—and which were related to the imamate of the imam and not his formulation of divine laws—such was the infallible imam who formulated divine laws and also had imamate, that is he governed. [as heard] Could the religious taxes—at a time when a jurisconsult and a marja' is governing—be given to a jurisconsult and marja' who is a jurisconsult but not governing, a jurisconsult who is not a guardian, a jurisconsult who cannot and should not intervene in government affairs? Could these religious dues—to use a clerical and scholastic term—be given to a non-imam or should they be paid to some one who is the imam, who is the imam of the nation, who stands at the head of the ummah [community], who leads, who guides, who has taken responsibility and who controls the Islamic government? All of us remember the fatwa of his eminence the imam [Khomeyni]. Regarding the Sadat religious tax [given to the offspring of the prophet] where many of the faqihs use to say that people could spend the Sadat religious tax for religious affairs, his eminence the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise, said: This is not the case and the Sadat religious tax too must be given to the guardian jurisconsult. Why? Because it concerns the Zelqorba [persons nearest to God] and the Zelqorba is the person of the imam, or one whose guardianship is decided by the imam, that is his appointment is by the imam, his occupation and responsibility of occupation is made by the imam. This is another issue. We think and imagine, according to the text of the holy verse: [passage omitted]. [We think] that they [religious taxes] belong to the imam, and the share of God and the prophet are given to the imam, and the share of the imam is also given to the imam [as heard]. At the time of his rule, the imam is both the formulator [of divine law] and the ruler, but during the time of occultation when there are faqihs but no [Islamic] government, all faqihs are both formulators and rulers, but when Islam gains sovereignty one faqih rules and the rest of faqihs have no rule. Would it be possible to give something that belongs to the imam to a non-imam?

This issue needs further attention. I won't deal with the issues of matters of taste or politics. Well, someone holds the responsibility, he must be assisted, he must be attended to, he has priority in order to respond to the needs of the Islamic ummah. That is another issue, in its own place. I want to say, from a seminarian point of view [talabegi] and of religious law, that this issue is worthy of review and investigation. We hope that the respected seminaries carry out more study on that.

The Tehran gathering lasted eight days and, in fact, it must be said that it was a great achievement regarding a cease-fire in Afghanistan. Let's hope that we no longer hear that in that country once again a bullet or a mortar has been fired. God willing, fratricide will end. We hope that the measure brings about its desired effect and the cease-fire continues.

Let me say a few words on the issue of the World Human Rights Day, which is tomorrow. Almost 46 years ago the Human Rights charter was adopted, and, so-to-speak, it has had a development trend in that period: actions have been taken, accords have been set up. I won't deal with those. What I want to tell you here is that unfortunately in the past decade we have seen with our own eyes that the issue of human rights has become a political tool and the double and multiple standards of the authorities show exactly that things are not done impartially and according to the charter. Instead, if they wish to put pressure on a country they put it on the list of violators [of human rights] and if they want to take the pressure away they take it off the list.

In any case, as we have said time and again, human rights has a sanctity. Principally rights is a sanctified issue, a sanctified science, which must not be mixed with political and executive issues. Rights must not be mixed with issues such as who has the right; who is the one who benefits or loses by the right; whether he is powerful or weak; is it a powerful government or a weak one. If such matters are mixed in then rights are diverted from their reality and, in fact, lose their sanctity.

I tell all those who are engaged in rights issues or who are in organizations where human rights issues are raised—from the [human rights] commission to the relevant committees—those who write in this field, debate in this field and pursue the field, that history will eventually judge one day. Try not to mix rights with political issues, and do not make organizations tools in the hands of the world's big powers. I declare here and now that fortunately in the Islamic Republic of Iran an independent rights body has been announced—this is its most correct legal interpretation—comprising various personalities from various strata of the community, as an association, a commission or a group—a [human] rights entity—which supports human rights and in the very near future the text of its articles of association will be published. There will be no difficulty for those who wish to join the group; the conditions will be announced later.

This was another point. My time is about to run out. While 51 European countries sit in a meeting to discuss the human rights issue, in a large city [Bihac] at least 200,000 people are on the verge of starvation. However, not a single word is spoken—in debates or in resolutions—about the sad and lamentable conditions in that city and about what appropriate action may be taken to alleviate the situation. This is what the religiously faithful Europe [Orupay-e Motedayyen] and these international organizations are like. They see with their own eyes what crimes, or rather what war crimes, are being committed by the Serbs against the Muslims, but they still choose to do nothing about it.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Palestine belongs to the Palestinians, whose resistance will continue to grow. Fortunately, as you have heard, even a number of Zionist statesmen are now realizing that such a resistance poses a great danger to them. We, too, like to declare once again that until the day that the house has been returned to its rightful owner, this danger will exist for you, who are present in that land as a usurper. [passage omitted]

Another issue which I have previously referred to concerns euthanasia. Islam does not permit this under any circumstances, even though this act might be legalized in certain developed countries. [passage omitted]

Yazdi Says Khomeyni's Mantle Given to Khamene'i

LD0912121594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] This week's Friday prayers, as in previous weeks, took place in the presence of millions of God-seeking ummah throughout our Islamic homeland. Tehran's Friday prayers, led by Ayatollah Yazdi, the acting Friday imam of Tehran, took place with the extensive presence of the Muslim and faithful people in the grounds of Tehran University and its surrounding streets.

In his sermons, the acting Friday imam of Tehran thanked the people for their extensive attendance at the funeral of Grand Ayatollah Araki and for their respect for the lofty position of marja'iyat. He said: This respect and honor, as well as the extensive spiritual and unique relationship with the position of marja'iyat, is the main secret of success of the Islamic revolution.

Ayatollah Yazdi invited the Qom Seminary School to extend its all-encompassing research on marja'iyat and reiterated: Currently, Islam is in a new situation. The need to answer the spiritual and other questions of society has become clearer than ever before.

Continuing his sermons, he assessed the ways of paying religious financial commitments [pardakht-e vojuhat-e shar'iy-e] during the rule of the guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult [hakamiyat-e velayat-e faqih].

He thanked the Qom Seminary School Lecturers Association and the Militant Clergy Association of Tehran for introducing the sources of emulation of the people and the Shiite world. He described their actions as timely and as helping the people decide their fate at a most sensitive juncture. He added: Currently, it is the people who will decide on their source of emulation, taking into account Islamic teachings.

Ayatollah Yazdi also thanked Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyed Ahmad Khomeyni for giving the mantle of the late imam [Khomeyni], may he be admitted to God's paradise, to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i as guardian and marja', and said: With this worthy act, this mantle will continue to remain the mantle of marja'iyat and people's guidance.

Continuing the sermons, the head of judiciary spoke of the International Day of Human Rights. He criticized the double standards of those who claim to support human rights and their exploitation of this issue. He said:

[Begin Yazdi recording] Is it human rights that 51 countries, Europeans among them, sit together and talk, without mentioning a word in their discussions or declaration about what should be done about the desperate situation of a city in which, as they say, at least 200,000 people are starving and are on the verge of death? These international organizations, which with their own eyes are witnessing the worst human tragedy—they can see what the Serbs are doing to the Muslims, what crimes they are committing, crimes that should be called war crimes—are, unfortunately, not doing anything. [end recording]

Ayatollah Amini Delivers Qom Friday Prayers Sermons

LD1012170494

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1444 GMT on 10 December carries a recording of the Friday prayer sermons in Qom on 9 December delivered by Ayatollah Ebrahim Amini-Najafabadi, who is the official in charge of supervising the elections of the Assembly of Experts....Amini begins by calling on the people to abide piety and then honors the memory of Grand Ayatollah Araki. His topic, he says, is theological jurisprudence. For this he lays the background for the need for a jurisconsult: it is to fill in the gap when the 12th Imam of the Shiite disappeared and hid himself from the Islamic ummah. He goes on to talk about the importance of the seminaries in Najaf and Karbala, two cities of religious significance in Iraq.

Amini continues, saying it is interesting to note that some time ago there was talk about the need to transfer this importance to Iran and in particular to Qom. This was at the time of Grand Ayatollah Kho'i's illness and death that the issue was put on the table. One of the great advantages of such a move was said to be that the billions given as religious tax will not leave Iran.

Amini continues his argument, giving the names of some of the important jusrisconsults and he also talks about the importance of Qom as a seminary where great religious leaders played a crucial role in safeguarding Islam in Iran at the time when Reza Shah was trying to do in Iran what Ataturk did in Turkey. That Reza Shah did not succeed in doing away with Islam was due to the sterling struggles of Qom seminarian greats, he says. One of those, he recalls, was Khomeyni who went on to bring about the Islamic revolution and thus carry out the wishes of such stalwarts as Ayatollah Ha'eri. Amini goes

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

on to say that Khomeyni was most interested in philosophy at first but came to the conclusion that what is needed is theological jurisprudence.

He follows this by going back to the virtues of Ayatollah Araki. He says that Araki might not have had the great knowledge possessed by Grand Ayatollah Khansari, but his constantancy in prayer and religious duties had no peer. Amini relates anecdotes about Araki and Khomeyni and says they are people to follow and emulate.

The importance of theological jurisprudence is again referred to, but Amini regrets the death of great jurisconsults in Iran. He calls on all religious scholars to do their utmost for nurturing expert jurisconsults. Eventually he offers prayers for those great ones which brought Islam to its present majestic height and ends his first sermon.

In his second sermon, Amini says there are several important issues to be tackled. The most important is the anniversary of the death of the 10th Imam. For this he offers condolences to the Hidden Imam and the rest of Islamic world.

The second issue is the birthday of another of the Imams.

The third is the anniversary of martyrdom of one of the jurisconsults.

The last issue is about the 5th of the lunar month of Rajab which is God's month and the month of prayer. There are many wonderful prayers to be offered. He encourages the people to read up those prayers in various books and informs them about the importance of fasting in this month, an act of great religious significance.

Moroccan King Sends Message to President

LD1112142894 Tehran IRNA in English 0820 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 11, IRNA—Moroccan Ambassador to Tehran Mohamed Azaroul in a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hashemi here Saturday [10 December] handed over King Hassan's message for President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his message King Hassan said that with regard to the present special circumstances, participation of President Rafsanjani in the summit meeting of Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] would have special meaning.

Stressing importance of President Rafsanjani's presence in the summit, the message said that in case the president could not attend all the sessions due to prior engagements, he was requested to attended one of the sessions.

ETTELA'AT Reports of Railway Link to Iraq

LD1012153894

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 1440 GMT on 10 December broadcasts a scheduled 20-minute "Press Review." The program includes the following sentence: "ETTELA'AT: The country's western railways are to be connected to Iraq's nationwide railway network." The program gives no further information.

Commentary Recommends Structured Approach to GATT

LD1012210694 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1923 GMT 10 Dec 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In less than a month, with the start of the new Christian year, the World Trade Organization will replace the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, known as GATT. In view of the short time that remains for the approval—by the official decision-making authorities of that organization's members—of the articles relating to the accord reached at the Uruguay round, there has been a considerable acceleration in this process in recent days and new reports emerge in this regard each day. [passage omitted]

In our country, too, since the time of the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of talks, the issue of whether the Islamic Republic of Iran should join the World Trade Organization has become an important topic of discussion and different views have been expressed in this connection. A group of people, who support the idea that Iran should join the accord based on the need to be present in international markets and on the advantages of the GATT accord, believe that a delay in Iran's membership will be harmful to the country and reduce non-oil exports.

Opponents, however, resorting to the argument that we need to support the country's newly emerging industries and that there are technological differences between advanced countries and developing countries, describe it as a one-sided accord that is to the advantage of Western industrial countries and say that it would lead to the unfettered and unconditional entry of their goods into Iran.

All things considered, it seems as if many of the views presented in this regard have been raised without careful consideration and without full and comprehensive information about the contents of the GATT accord. In view of this, and in view of the importance of this debate and the need to be closely familiar with international economic developments and to have a clear position on that basis, it would be better if, with extensive mass media cooperation, this debate were raised in all the country's expert organizations and, at the head of them all, the Majles so that the pros and cons of Iran joining GATT and its consequences are carefully examined.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Nateq-Nuri Summarizes Central Eurasian Visit

LD1012221894 Tehran IRNA in English 2130 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, 10 Dec (IRNA)—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri returned to Tehran at the conclusion of his visits to Ukraine and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

He said to reporters at the airport here that in his talks with the officials of the two countries a number of agreements had been signed.

He said he had signed a cultural letter of understanding with the Republic of Ukraine.

He said agreements had also been arrived at in the area of Iran-Azerbaijan gas and oil consortium and the participation of Ukraine in that consortium, the laying of a gas pipeline, and economic exchanges between the three countries.

He said in his meeting with the officials of the Republic of Azerbaijan the issue of Karabakh had also been brought up and he stressed that the position of Iran that demands condemnation of the agressor party in the conflict was firmly repeated.

He said he had also visited the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan where the Iranian delegation was warmly welcomed.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri said arrangements had been made to ensure that the Islamic republic would continue to offer electricity to Nakhichevan. He added that initial agreements had also been arrived at in his talks with the officials of the Republic of Nakhichevan for building an oil refinery and a cement plant.

Habibi Meets With Omani Minister al-Ghazali

Relations Described As 'Deep'

LD1012190694 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Hasan Habibi, the first vice-president, met Mr. Salim Bin-'Abdallah al-Ghazali, the Omani minister of roads and communications, today. In the meeting, Habibi described the presence of foreign powers in the Persian Gulf as a cause of insecurity and instability in the region and stressed the need for the expansion of ties and cooperation between the countries of the region.

The Omani roads minister, for his part, described relations between his country and the Islamic Republic of Iran as deep and long-standing.

Cooperation in the fields of economics, security and air transport and the need to strive towards removing obstacles impeding the expansion and consolidation of cooperation between Oman and Iran were also discussed in a meeting in Tehran today between the Omani roads and communications minister and our country's roads and transport minister. In the meeting, the two sides called for the establishment of a commission which would pursue the issues raised and the agreements reached and pave the way for the expansion of ties.

Transport Agreement Signed

LD1112114994 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An air and sea transport protocol between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Oman was signed by officials of the two countries today. The protocol was signed by Mr. Torkan, the Omani communications, roads and transport minister [name, title as heard], at Tehran Airport before the departure of the Omani minister.

Expansion of cooperation in the communications and economic fields are stressed in the protocol. According to Mr. Torkan, on the basis of agreements reached by the two countries, Oman will allow our country's aircraft to fly from Muscat, as well as from Oman. In the field of sea transportation, cooperation will be expanded, and Iranian contractors will be allowed to participate in development projects in Oman, such as port and roads.

Journalists Allowed To Visit Prison

LD1012182894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] On the occasion of World Human Rights Day, a group of foreign and domestic journalists and cameramen visited various parts of the Evin prison this morning. They were briefed on the life and activities of the inmates.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, the foreign and domestic journalists and cameramen visited the women and men's prisons, their tailoring, knitting, sewing, building construction and other vocational workshops and spoke to some the prisoners.

During this visit, the head of the state prisons, security and rehabilitation organization described the general policy of the organization as reeducation and creating a proper personality for the prisoners. Referring to the setting up of summer and winter camps, literacy classes, sports programs, workshop activities and farmlands for the prisoners, he added: Throughout the country there are 100,481 prisoners half of them are drug offenders. The rest are convicted of fraud, murder, burglary, misdemeanors and sexual crimes. He stressed: There are a few prisoners from grouplets, some of whom, including Mr 'Amu'i, a Communist party member, have been released from prison.

Continuing his discussion with the foreign and domestic journalists, the head of the prisons, security and rehabilitation organization referred to the malicious action by

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Western countries and, announcing the Islamic Republic of Iran's willingness to receive representatives from international forums and organizations for inspecting the life and status of prisoners in our country, added: They will be able to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran after necessary coordination with the Foreign Ministry.

U.S. Admits Defeat in Attempts To Isolate Iran

LD0912162994 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States has admitted defeat in its attempts to isolate the Islamic Republic of Iran. According to a UP report, U.S. Under Secretary of State Lynn Davis, yesterday criticized Europe, Russia, and China for not paying attention to U.S. wishes and expanding their ties with Iran. She stressed: The White House wants these countries to sever political and economic ties with Tehran.

Implications of U.S.-Kuwait Maneuvers Viewed

NC1012132594 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 5 Dec 94 p 15

[Political commentary: "Military Maneuvers in Kuwait—From Propaganda to Reality"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The most extensive joint military maneuvers by the United States along with its Arab and Western allies in the region began on Kuwaiti territory yesterday.

During these maneuvers, which will continue for five days, the military commanders from Britain, France, Egypt, Syria, and the Arab states in the Persian Gulf are participating as supervisors and their military contingents are also taking part.

According to General Fahd al-Amir, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces, "These maneuvers indicate the continued cooperation among the allied forces of the 33 countries under the U.S. command that extricated Kuwait from Iraqi occupation."

This Kuwaiti military official refrained from elaborating on the actual objectives of the United States and its Western and regional allies in staging these and similar maneuvers in the Persian Gulf. Most of the political analysts in the region believe that the objective of such maneuvers in the region is to convince the Arab regimes of the Persian Gulf to accept the politico-military guardianship of the United States and to make them more dependent to create the necessary political conditions for the sale of U.S. and European armaments to the regional shaykhdoms. The Persian Gulf region does not have any need for these armaments.

Kuwait's allies construed the massing of Iraqi military forces on the border of this shaykhdom as a military threat and once again resorted to the dispatch of troops. Following the Iraqi attack in 1370 [beginning 21 March 1991], Kuwait participated in a series of joint maneuvers with the United States, Britain, and the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf. The objective of those maneuvers was announced as an effort to upgrade the level of military training in the Kuwaiti Armed Forces. However, according to observers, the staging of such military maneuvers has not helped in raising the level of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces' military training.

In the past four years, Kuwait has purchased billions of dollars worth of modern weapons from the United States and the West. A report states that the total quantity of weapons purchased by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in the aftermath of the oil war from the United States and Europe is equal to the entire volume of ordnance purchases by these shaykhdoms in the past 40 years from the West on the basis of various military accords.

The Kuwaiti regime also pays billions of dollars worth of the expenses of the U.S. and Western forces that liberated Kuwait from the clutches of the Iraqis. Even now thousands of American and Western forces are stationed on Kuwaiti soil and all kinds of Western military equipment has been stockpiled in this emirate. Despite the staging of dozens of joint military maneuvers between Kuwait and the United States along with its Western allies, this emirate has not weaned itself from the military support and assistance from the United States and the West.

By repeatedly flaunting the issue of the Iraqi threat, the United States and the West have made the countries of the region more dependent on themselves and are capitalizing on this dependence.

The real objective of the United States and the West in propounding these foreign threats is to strengthen their own political influence and safeguard their own vital interests in the oil-rich Persian Gulf region and to extract petrodollars from the Arab countries.

One of the objectives of staging joint maneuvers by the United States and the Western countries is to consolidate their presence in the region, even though the regional countries would be able to defend themselves in cooperation with one another. These countries do not need U.S. and Western forces to lean on to defend the interests of countries in the region. The fact is that the real objective of the United States and its allies in maintaining their military presence in the region is not the defense of the interests of these countries.

Khamene'i Discusses 'Cultural Revolution'

LD1012175194 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, received the members of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution this morning. In the course of a speech, he stressed the need for carrying out a real cultural revolution on the basis of a profound change in morality

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

in the general and correct sense of the word, and described this as a decisive and unavoidable factor for the growth and exaltation of Islamic Iran in the international arena and for the realization of the lofty ideals of Islam and the Holy Koran. [passage omitted]

The eminent leader of the revolution drew the attention of the members of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution to the importance of planning and to the need for the greatest possible effort towards safeguarding society's general and ethical culture and said: All difficulties are linked directly to society's general culture and ethics, and the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution must provide a legal and judicial framework so that, on that basis, the pillars can be laid for the advancement of the Muslim and powerful nation of Iran towards a lofty Islamic and human civilization. This is a great mission for the sake of which the prominent, wise, and eminent members of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution must strive with full seriousness.

The eminent leader said that ensuring the future of Islamic Iran is dependent on safeguarding the general Islamic and revolutionary culture and added: Just as we have previously referred to working conscientiously and to maintaining social discipline, this issue also must become part of the public culture and must be pursued in earnest because true progress is only possible through sincerity, constant effort, devotion to work, and indifference to material and worldly goods; and, in order to move towards a lofty human civilization and to instigate correct social ethics in people's daily lives, requires a codification of ethics, alongside a great ethical movement.

At the end of his remarks, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i referred to some cultural accusations leveled by the West against the great Iranian nation and the Islamic system and said: Recently the British parliament has resorted to some false reports concerning the Islamic system's treatment of Iranian women, which itself is a cultural accusation. With that accusation the British parliament has lowered itself to the level of a mercenary reporter.

The Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution, as the country's cultural reference point and a significant legal foundation, should show a timely reaction to give a decisive and documented response to such baseless and regrettable accusations by such official Western circles. [passage omitted]

Commentary on British Envoy's 'Audacious' Remarks

NC1012101394 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 Dec 94 p 12

[Political commentary: "A Response for the Audacious Ambassador!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking at an economic seminar in Dammam recently, the British ambassador to Riyadh said: "Britain considers Iran and Iraq an inherent danger for Saudi Arabia, which faces a threat from its neighbors. Therefore, Saudi Arabia needs a country that can defend it and...." [ellipsis as published] This is not the first time that the British ambassador has made such audacious judgments on subjects that do not concern him or his government in the slightest. He had uttered similar falsehoods on earlier occasions as well.

Like all his counterparts in the region, the British ambassador lacks diplomatic perception in judging political matters. He has mentioned the Islamic Republic of Iran as a danger to the region when in the past 15 years Islamic Iran has expended its efforts and energy in neutralizing such discord-generating efforts by the belligerent, audacious, and aggressive powers such as Britain and the United States in the region.

Today there is not a single country in the Persian Gulf region that has not witnessed the clear manifestations of the efforts of the London echelons to sow discord and cause political rifts and dichotomy among the regional countries, or has not experienced the malicious attitude of the British court in undermining the security and stability of the region.

The fact is that when the Persian Gulf region did not experience the overt intervention by the United States, Britain, and their allies, the situation was calm. The prevalence of lawlessness, disarray, discord, and instability is the result of the political and military intervention of these powers and their destructive cultural actions, combined with their intelligence activities and adventurism. The sources of division in the Persian Gulf region basically are the United States and Europe.

Thus, the ambassador of a regime that is one of the founders and main causes of political instability in the Persian Gulf region does not have the right to be judgmental about the political issues in the region. The remarks by the British ambassador regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran are part of this overt intervention in Iran's internal affairs and nothing else.

It would be worthwhile for the British Ambassador, David Gore-Booth, to know that the Iranian public hates Britain and America. In the past 15 years the new generation of Iranians have been nurtured on this loathing and abhorrence, which was spawned by an extensive dossier replete with accounts of these countries' abomination, villainy, and foul deeds with regard in their relations with the people of Iran.

Commentary on Anniversary of Palestinian Intifadah

NC1012093094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 10 Dec 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] The occupied land of Palestine witnessed one of the most extensive general strikes staged by the Palestinians on the seventh anniversary of the beginning of the intifadah yesterday. Seven years ago the Palestinians initiated an uprising that was unprecedented in its size and continuation in the history of this nation.

This uprising—despite the difficult conditions for the struggle and the merciless suppression by the Zionist regime—continues in full strength. The occupationist Jerusalem regime, which has suffered a total defeat in suppressing this uprising, resorted to the ploy of signing an accord for the autonomy of Gaza-Jericho with 'Arafat. In this manner, it is seeking to create a dichotomy among the ranks of the Palestinian Muslim nation, overtly and covertly, to deal a blow to the intifadah from within.

Political analysts believe that since the intifadah is the fruit of the extensive political experiences of the Palestinian people and the tangible result of the maturity of their political acumen, all the enemy's plots to inflict blows on it have been unsuccessful.

After the emergence of the despotic Zionist government in 1948, the Palestinian nation joined the wave of Arab nationalism and pinned its hopes on the Arab governments for the liberation of the occupied territories. However, the wars of 1948, 1956, and 1965 proved that the Arab governments were not able to carry out this task due to their political structures.

In the mid-sixties, the Palestinian nation perceived that time was passing by to the detriment of its cause and gave up any hopes on the Arab governments and established its own guerrilla organizations, thus directly entering the arena of a confrontation with the Zionist enemy. This struggle, which was mostly managed from outside but within different ideological frameworks, swiftly transformed into a power struggle among the various Palestinian groups. With the surfacing of interference between the powers of these groups and the hosting Arab countries, most of these organizations were suppressed by the Arab governments. The Black September incident in 1970 and the civil war in Lebanon in 1975 are considered the most conspicuous and sorrowful examples of this suppression.

These efforts encountered total defeat when in 1361 [year beginning 21 March 1982] the Zionist enemy attacked Lebanon and was confronted by the military siege of the Palestinian resistance organizations in Beirut, which motivated them to leave Lebanon and take up residence in Tunis. These experiences collectively drove home to the Palestinian nation that efforts for the liberation of Palestine from outside—whether by Arab countries or the Palestinian guerrilla organizations with imported [varedati] ideologies—cannot change the current situation.

What appeared hopeful amid all this was the successful and simultaneous experiment in Lebanon. The struggle of the Muslims against the Zionist usurpers—which was inspired by the struggle and revolution of the Iranian Muslims—was victorious in motivating the Zionist enemy for the first time to retreat from most of the occupied Lebanese territory.

This experiment, which was based in general on internal resources and on the important pillar of the vital ideology of Islam, had a deep effect on the Palestinian Muslims of which the intifadah can be considered a practical manifestation. Now this intifadah is entering its eighth year when it is stronger and more magnificent than ever before.

Pakistan

Editorial Examines India's 'Electoral Debacle'

BK1212064694 Islamabad THE NATION in English 12 Dec 94 p 7

[Editorial: "Congress Defeat"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India's ruling Congress Party has suffered its worst electoral debacle since 1989. In three of the four states where Assembly elections were held, it has been beaten all ends up and even in the fourth it has failed to win a majority. The centre-stage of the electoral battle, seen by political pundits as "the battle for South India", were the key states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka where the Congress had won a commanding majority in the 1989 general election. In Andhra, the home state of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, Telegu Desham Party, a regional outfit led by movie star-turned politician N.T. Rama Rao has triumphantly returned to power on the mundane plank of 'cheaper rice and a ban on alcohol', despite sizeable defections and accusations of turning politics into a family business. Among the losers are almost all the Congress Ministers including Prime Minister Rao's own son. In neighbouring Karnataka, the crisis-ridden Janata Dal, which has of late been fighting a losing battle to salvage its identity as a national alternative to the Congress, has managed to stage a comeback beating the Congress Party to a 'poor third'. The Congress defeat has above all been a personal humiliation for Narasimha Rao who at the start of the election campaign had termed the contest as a vote of confidence in his leadership. His arch rivals within the Congress are likely to seize the opportunity to ask for his head, and he is in real danger of losing his job. Whether or not the Congress would be able to recover from the shock and its fallout in time for the 1996 general election is anybody's guess. Opinions differ on the meaning of the electorate's message in State Assembly polls, and some observers are prone to calling the general election an entirely different ball game, but there is certainly no doubt that the era of one-party ascendancy has come to an end. India has already come a long way from the days of a dominant one party system. The Communists have been in power in West Bengal for the last 17 years, the two factions of the DMK

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] have alternately been running Tamil Nadu, and since 1989, even though the Congress has retrieved power in New Delhi, several key states are in control of other parties. And, notwithstanding occasional manipulations to cut the dissident State governments down to size, multi-polarity has now been accepted as a fait accompli in the Indian political system.

Unfortunately, the message has not been understood by contenders for power in Pakistan, who seem unwilling to accept bi-partisanship as an unavoidable mode of functioning in a democratic system. In theory we have a Federal Constitution, and government leaders are long on rhetoric when they talk about the rights of provinces, but in practice, the lingering tendency has been to treat the provincial governments as mere appendages of the Centre. No wonder the party in power at the Centre is not prepared to let an Opposition party run a province. Dismissal of the Sabir Shah government in NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] has been the most recent instance of the urge to accumulate all power at the cost of jeopardising the viability of democratic institutions. As long as the system is held to ransom by the us or them syndrome, and no effort is made to let it function in accordance with the spirit of the popular mandate, dissent will manifest itself in extra-constitutional moves to destabilise the government. Democratic institutions in India would have fallen to pieces had the politicians followed the Pakistani model and refused to change their style of functioning in accordance with the dictates of time.

Legislators Work for Solution to Sindh Crisis

BK1212074894 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Sami Ullah]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Dec 11—Despite the mounting violence, apparently aimed at creating panic and sense of insecurity in Karachi, PDF [Pakistan Democratic Front] legislators have decided in principle to pull out troops from volatile Sindh.

The meeting of PDF legislators, presided over by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and attended by 110 MNAs [Members of National Assembly] and 36 senators at the Prime Minister House here on Sunday, also reportedly decided not to take the rulings of Speaker of the National Assembly and Chairman of Senate regarding production of the detained legislators, to the court for interpretation.

PPP [Pakistan People's Party] sources confided to THE MUSLIM that the majority of members of parliament from Sindh were in favour of resolving the Karachi angle politically. They were against adopting administrative measures like handing over the volatile city to the Armed Forces as it would put a heavy burden on the provincial exchequer which would adversely affect developmental programmes.

According to some legislators the 38-month long army operation in Sindh had in all cost Rs [rupees] $31 billion. As per the agreement the Federal Government was to pay only 40 per cent of the total expenditure.

The Sindh government suspended the army operation in the province last month but it did not withdraw troops which were sent to the province under Article 147 of the Constitution. This article authorises a provincial government to call the army to its assistance as and when it needs.

It was decided in the last provincial cabinet meeting that the provincial government would call back troops in case needed. However, the miscreants had been on the rampage in Karachi the provincial government had not sought to help of troops. Now the PDF members of the Parliamentary Committee have decided to withdraw powers being exercised under Article 147 of the Constitution.

Regarding the rulings of the Custodians of the two Houses PDF legislators decided not to approach courts. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and most of the legislators were of the view that it was for the aggrieved party to go to a court and since the government was not an aggrieved party not it would not go to courts.

According to a PDF leader it was unanimously decided not to seek a vote of confidence in the House as the situation did not warrant that.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto reportedly rejected reports that the country was facing a political crisis and the possibility of martial law was there. She was of the view that non serious press statements issued by paper tigers like Pir Pagara and others could not lead to the enforcement of martial law in the country.

According to sources members of the PDF Parliamentary Committee have also been directed to stay in the Federal Capital till the return of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto from Casablanca.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.